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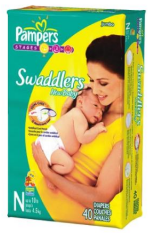

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Celebrity Buzz

Simpson, Corgan hook up?

pg 43

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Cops lay charges in retail robberies

Ottawa police have charged an Ottawa man following two retail robberies in the city's east end earlier this week.

Between 11 p.m. and midnight Tuesday, police responded to two robberies where a male had entered a store brandishing a handgun. An undisclosed amount of money, lotto tickets and cigarettes were taken.

Based on witness information, police stopped a vehicle, recovered property and charged a driver.

Nicholas Alswiti, 22, faces two counts each of robbery with a firearm, pointing a firearm, using a firearm during the commission of an offence and possession of weapons dangerous to the public and four counts of breach of undertaking. METRO OTTAWA

News on the Move

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World pg 9

Obama humbled

On the web
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Torch relay

Great Scott

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barbara Ann Scott carries the Olympic torch in the rotunda of the Parliament Buildings Thursday. In 1948, at the St. Moritz Winter Olympics, Scott became the first Canadian to win a figure skating gold medal. She was also awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete of the year in 1945, 1947 and 1948. More Olympics coverage, page 20.

Clash in the Commons

Close vote forces Tories to release Afghan documents

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has lost its iron grip on information about detainee treatment in Afghanistan after a showdown that pitted the power of the ruling party against the power of Parliament and the combined force of the opposition parties.

The Liberals narrowly pushed through a motion in the Commons Thursday that forces Harper's government to release waves of unedited documents so Parliament can examine whether Afghan prisoners detained by Canadian forces were subject to torture when handed over to local authorities, and what the government knew about the issue.

The motion passed with a vote of 145-143.

It's not clear how that information will be released in days ahead, or whether the government will continue to resist the documents' release.

2 The number of votes in the House that pushed through a motion to release unedited documents regarding Afghan prisoners detained by Canadian Forces.

Failure to hand over the material, however, could result in the Conservative government being found in contempt of Parliament and could see the Commons asking police to step in and obtain the information that has now been formally ordered released.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's motion was also supported by the New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois.

The government fought hard Thursday against the release of information, arguing the Taliban would profit from the data.

Ignatieff said such arguments were "ridiculous." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vehicle may hold key to fatal hit-and-run

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

HELP Police have released photographs of a vehicle of interest in hopes the public can assist in an investigation into a fatal hit-and-run collision last month.

At 4:15 p.m. Nov. 27, a motorcycle and a car collided in the area of Richmond Road and High Street. The 44-year-old driver of the motorcycle was pronounced dead at hospital.

Ottawa police said Thursday they have obtained surveillance footage from a nearby residential unit, and collision investigators believe the footage shows a vehicle of interest.

Police said they are interested in speaking with the owner or driver of this vehicle as they may have valuable information relating to this incident.

The vehicle is described as light silver or grey, with four doors, believed to be an Acura 3.2 TL. The vehicle may have dents or damage in the area of the lower-right side passenger doors.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

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Local

Police warn of scam targeting seniors

Ottawa seniors are among those targeted in an ongoing scam, city police said Thursday. Police said the scam involves someone contacting an older person and pretending to be a grandchild in trouble with the police. The victim is asked to use a money wire service to send several thousand dollars for bail. While this scam has targeted people from the U.S. in the past, it appears to have recently found victims in the Ottawa area, said Ottawa police Staff Sgt. Richard Dugal. METRO OTTAWA

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City's LRT plan on track

Land buying, environmental assessment next

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

The city can begin buying property for its light rail rapid transit line as early as January.

The majority of the $2.1-billion, 12.5-kilometre electric light rail line from Tunney's Pasture to Blair Station will follow or run beneath the Transitway.

The city will have to acquire land around some transit stations in order to build. While the land around the stations is federally owned parkland, the maintenance yard near St. Laurent is privately owned industrial space.

If city council approves the planning and environmental assessment study, which was released Thursday, a six-month expedited environmental assessment would begin almost immediately.

Actual construction on the project is still a few years away. Deputy city manager Nancy Schepers said they are not expecting to break ground on a tunnel until late in 2012 or even 2013.

There were arguments that the first line should end at Bayview, since there are still questions about whether the National Capital Commission would allow the city to run tracks down the Western River Parkway.

On a mission Christmas turkeys

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Mayor Larry O'Brien, left, helps Patrick Kelahear of Battlefield Equipment Rentals unload turkeys at the Ottawa Mission Thursday. The mayor's office, Ross' Your Independent Grocer in Barrhaven and Battlefield teamed up to donate 25 turkeys to the downtown shelter, which holds its Christmas dinner on Dec. 20.

Local MMA takes charity fight to Que.

FUNDRAISER Canadian Forces soldiers can fight for our country in Afghanistan, but local mixed martial artists who want to fight for our soldiers have to do it in Quebec.

On Saturday, Ottawa-based Wreck MMA will be holding their first event, a 12-fight extravaganza called Fight for the Troops, at the Robert Guertin Arena in Gatineau.

A portion of the proceeds from the event — up to $10,000, according to Wreck MMA president Nick Castiglia — will benefit Soldier On, a charity that helps injured Canadian Forces personnel remain functional and independent.

"We have people over in Afghanistan fighting for our country," said Castiglia.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

FREE CONCERT The National Arts Centre is opening its doors to the public for a free concert in support of the Snowsuit Fund and the Ottawa Food Bank this Sunday. Christmas FanFair will feature the musicians of the NAC Orchestra, the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, NACO bursary winner cellist Daniel Parker, OrKidstra and a Christmas carol singalong. METRO OTTAWA

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Canadian universities try to recruit Chinese students

Representatives from 14 Canadian universities will try to attract Chinese doctoral students to their schools during a recruitment mission in Beijing starting Friday, competing with institutions from eight other countries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

$50K reward off for homicide case

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is offering a $50,000 reward for information about a human skull that was found near St. John's in 2001 that they believe is from a homicide victim. Police released this reconstruction of a man, pictured, they believed died in Newfoundland and Labrador in the late 1990s. He probably lived in Quebec or Ontario or possibly the northeastern United States, and he was probably born in the late 1950s or early 1960s, officers said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

BONUSES Finance Minister Jim Flaherty say Thursday he has no plans to tax excessive bonuses handed out to bank executives, but warned Canadian bankers they must follow international guidelines on compensation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public torture hearing in doubt

AFGHAN A public hearing by a military watchdog into the handling of Afghan prisoners has been rescheduled for the spring, but whether the federal government actually lets it proceed is uncertain.

The resumption of the inquiry was debated Thursday amid the fallout from Gen. Walt Natynczyk's explosive revelation that a Canadian-captured detainee was indeed abused, contrary to the Tory government assurances.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec **Pair die in plane crash**

ROCKEL LAVOIE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/LE QUOTIDIEN

Two people are dead following the crash of a small plane Wednesday night in central Quebec. Two other people aboard the Kingair twin engine plane survived the accident in a wooded area of the Saguenay region. The victims were both in their 20s, from Baie-Comeau, Que.

Top court to hear case on Air India legal bills

B.C. says acquitted man owes millions

The legal tussle over a multimillion-dollar legal bill between the B.C. government and a man acquitted in the Air India bombings is headed for Canada's highest court.

Ripudaman Singh Malik

The Supreme Court of Canada said Thursday it will hear an appeal by the province over documents it seized in connection to the assets and liabilities of Ripudaman Singh Malik.

In March 2005, a B.C. Supreme Court judge acquitted Malik and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri in the 1985 bombings of two separate Air India flights that killed a total of 331 people.

Prior to the start of the trial in 2003, the B.C. government signed an agreement with the millionaire businessman to pay the costs of his defence team up front. Malik was to repay the government the cost of his 11-member team. He hasn't, despite government demands dating back to December 2005.

Malik is suing the Crown for malicious prosecution, and launched legal action in 2007 arguing that he shouldn't have to pay if his allegations prove true in court. He also claimed the deal he made with the province to repay his legal fees was made under duress. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Non-profit groups want tax laws changed

Non-profit organizations are calling on the federal government to change income tax laws to make it easier for philanthropists to donate private company shares and real estate to charities.. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICESS

No Greenpeace tees in Parliament

Greenpeace T-shirts have been banned from Parliament after the organization staged an illegal demonstration on the Hill this week.

The ban is due to "recent events," a security guard told a reporter from The Canadian Press who entered the Parliament buildings as a visitor Thursday wearing a Greenpeace T-shirt.

The reporter put on the shirt to confirm reports that security was searching visitors for Greenpeace logos.

The T-shirt was brought to the attention of nearby officers who told the reporter she could not enter the buildings. They relented after she agreed to turn the T-shirt inside-out.

A House of Commons security guard then issued a stern warning: "We won't tolerate anything. We will charge you."

The protest embarrassed RCMP and other security officials on Parliament Hill.

Heather Bradley, a spokesperson for the Speaker's office, said it is routine for guests to be obliged to remove attire that may "disrupt" proceedings.

"When someone is invited in as a member of the public in either the chamber or a committee, they're invited in as an observer, that's it," she said. "They're not a participant, they're an observer."

Bradley offered the example of several visitors who were recently asked to remove anti-abortion pins before entering the public gallery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Environmental protest

- About 20 Greenpeace activists were arrested Monday after scaling the roof of the Parliament buildings and unfurling a sign attacking Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff for their environmental positions.

Aboriginal wants level playing field

DEVELOPMENT A B.C. aboriginal band says proposed legislation that would allow it to launch large-scale, commercial development of its Vancouver-area properties falls short of expectations.

The Squamish Nation says the bill before Parliament doesn't allow it to compete on a level playing field in Vancouver's growing real-estate market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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It's not a good idea to embark on holiday travel immediately after significant dental work has been done. **A quick pre-vacation visit to our office may be a good idea, especially if your travels take you to a remote or foreign destination.** When traveling far from home, avoid sticky and hard exotic foods that you are not used to eating. Many dental emergencies are due to lost fillings, broken teeth or ill-fitting dentures.

Consider assembling an inexpensive dental kit to take with you on your holiday travels. Dental cement compounds are available to replace a filling temporarily. Orthodontic wax protects sharp edges, especially on braces. A pair of tweezers, a small mirror, some sterile cotton, and (if applicable) a denture repair kit with adhesive may also come in handy. Most of all, don't forget the toothbrush, fluoride toothpaste and floss.

If a tooth has been broken as a result of an accident or injury, rinse the mouth with warm water to keep the area clean. Use cold compresses to keep the swelling down and get to a dentist's office quickly. If the tongue or lip is bitten, clean the area gently with a cloth, and apply cold compresses to reduce swelling. **If the bleeding doesn't stop, go to a hospital emergency room at once.**

In case of a toothache, rinse the mouth with warm water to clean it out. Make sure food or foreign objects aren't lodged around the tooth by using dental floss. **Do not apply aspirin or any other analgesic on the gums, or around the aching tooth** because they may cause a burn on the mouth tissues and do more harm than good. Although you can create a temporary filling, do not take any chances with a broken or abscessed tooth. Find a local dentist as soon as possible.

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Senator's fraud trial hears from an aide in fear
An ex-aide to Senator Raymond Lavigne told his fraud trial she was afraid of a co-worker who allegedly worked for him at taxpayers' expense. THE CANADIAN PRESS

5,000 in a power play

New Brunswickers blast the sale of utility

Thousands of New Brunswickers are opposed to the sale of NB Power.

New Brunswick's Conservative Opposition has presented the provincial government with petitions signed by more than 5,000 people who are opposed.

Tory Leader David Alward says some of the petitions say no to the sale.

Others, Alward said, call on the Liberal government to hold a referendum or wait for the next election before finalizing the deal.

The petitions have been tabled in the legislature and Alward says more petitions are coming.

Energy Minister Jack Keir says he's not upset with the petitions because it is democracy at work.

He says there are still a lot of people who don't understand the benefits of the deal.

Under the deal, Hydro-Québec would buy the major assets of NB Power for almost $4.8 billion and provide more than $5 billion in rate cuts over five years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anatomy of a sale

- Under the proposed deal, Hydro-Québec would get all the major assets of NB Power, including transmission lines and the Point Lepreau nuclear power station, for $4.75 billion — equal to NB Power's debt.
- Residential rates would also be frozen for five years and industrial customers would see an immediate 30 per cent cut in rates, with the savings expected to equal about $5 billion.
- Unions in New Brunswick are worried about the impact on jobs when coal-fired plants in Dalhousie, Courtenay Bay and Grand Lake are decommissioned.

Hospitals wage war on lethal killer

DEATH A lethal condition is killing more than 9,300 people each year.

It's sepsis, a serious body-wide response to infection that patients often acquire while being treated in hospital.

A report released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information provides a pan-Canadian snapshot of sepsis, one of the top causes of death in hospitals, said Indra Pulcins, a director.

"One in three patients with sepsis in Canada will end up dying from it — so it's about 30 per cent," Pulcins said.

"Just to put this in context, the mortality rate for stroke was about one in five patients would die, for heart attacks, one in 10 patients would die."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sepsis snapshot

- Sepsis signs are fever or lower-than-usual temperature, rapid heart and breathing, an abnormally high or low number of white blood cells.
- People with weakened immune systems and certain chronic conditions are more vulnerable.

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A group of Israeli doctors have found the soothing sounds of Mozart may help premature babies grow faster. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

57 held in Philippines

Militiamen demand murder, banditry charges dropped

Government-armed former militiamen wanted for murder and banditry took more than 70 villagers and children hostage Thursday from a southern Philippines village, demanding charges be dropped against them before they would free the captives.

The abductions raised fresh questions over the government's long-standing policy of arming civilian volunteers to protect against insurgencies. Just the day before, 100 other militiamen in the south were accused of slaughtering civilians in the country's worst political massacre.

Hours after the kidnapping Thursday, the gunmen freed the 17 children they held after talking with a government negotiator. They continued to hold 57 hostages, mostly women.

For decades, the Philippines government has armed civilian volunteers — often poorly trained and ill-disciplined — as a backup security force in areas with communist or Muslim insurgencies.

At least 100 government militiamen are among 161 suspects in last month's massacre of 57 people in an election convoy in Maguindanao province, on the opposite western side of volatile Mindanao Island. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Humbled and hawkish, Obama accepts Nobel Peace Prize

NORWAY U.S. President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Thursday in Oslo with a striking defence of war, saying that evil must be vigorously opposed even as he made an impassioned case for building a "just and lasting peace."

Pronouncing himself humbled by such an honour so early in "my labours on the world stage," Obama nevertheless turned his Nobel moment into an unapologetic defence of armed intervention in times of self defence or moral necessity. It was a jarring moment when Obama, in the midst of the ceremony, said of U.S. troops in Afghanistan: "Some will kill. Some will be killed."

He lauded previous Nobel winner Martin Luther King Jr., as a preacher of nonviolent action. But he added, "A nonviolent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies. Negotiations cannot convince al-Qaida's leaders to lay down their arms."

He drew laughter when he acknowledged "the considerable controversy that your generous decision has generated."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLAUS BJOERN LARSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian and Alaskan Inuit demonstrate against U.S. President Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, in front of the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark, Thursday.

Busy man

- U.S. President Barack Obama's decision to break with tradition and not follow the lead of past Nobel Peace Prize winners bewildered some Norwegians. Others thought he was being impolite, as he skipped out on a host of activities, including Friday's Nobel Concert. Obama blamed his schedule.

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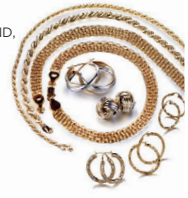

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Crackdown after South African citizenship given away
South Africa on Thursday suspended dozens of officials being investigated for giving citizenship to mainly Pakistani foreigners. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emails fuelling skeptics

Go Green

At a critical time, the uproar over stolen emails suggesting scientists suppressed contrary views about climate change has emboldened skeptics — including U.S. congressional Republicans looking to scuttle President Barack Obama's push for mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases.

The email brouhaha, dubbed "Climategate" by doubters, comes as U.S. delegates to the international climate conference in Copenhagen are trying to convince the world the United States is determined to move aggressively to rein in heat-trapping pollution.

To counter the delegates, a group of Republican lawmakers is going to Copenhagen to argue against mandatory greenhouse gas reductions.

The climate skeptics gained political momentum when former Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin said Obama should boycott the negotiations in Denmark and "not be a party to fraudulent scientific practices" — a clear reference to the purloined emails from computers belonging to scientists at a British climate research centre.

Obama is going anyway.

Former vice-president Al Gore, the most recognized U.S. voice on climate change, quickly rebutted Palin and accused the climate deniers in an interview with CNN television of "taking things out of context and misrepresenting" what the emails actually said.

That has not stopped Republican members of Congress, two dozen of whom are writing a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon demanding that he investigate the emails. Republican lawmakers say they will loudly and often raise questions about what they consider a corruption of climate science at the Denmark conference, where delegates from 192 nations are trying to forge a climate agreement.

'Deep' evidence

- More than 1,700 scientists in the U.K. have signed a statement to defend the "deep and extensive" evidence that climate change is real and is the result of human activity.

It all began when hackers broke into a computer system belonging to a climate research centre at Britain's University of East Anglia, stole several thousand emails spanning a decade between some of the worlds leading climate scientists, and three weeks ago put some of the spiciest ones on the Internet. One referred to using a "trick" that could be used to "hide the decline" of temperatures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

U.S. A bill to protect reporters' confidential sources in U.S. federal court cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. The bill does not give journalists absolute authority to protect sources, that can be overridden in national security cases. The legislation has broad support from media organizations. Conservatives and some in the intelligence community believe it can harm attempts to track classified information leaks.

BRITAIN H1N1 flu is far less dangerous than originally feared, British officials said Thursday — about 100 times less lethal than the 1918 Spanish flu. To determine how deadly the virus is, the British health department tracked all reported swine flu patients hospitalized between July and November. In a paper published online in the British journal BMJ, experts estimated that out of every 100,000 infected people in Britain, about 26 died. That is about 100 times less deadly than the devastating 1918 Spanish flu, which killed at least 50 million people worldwide.

TURKEY A methane gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in western Turkey on Thursday, trapping about 15 miners, a local official said. Mayor Sadi Kurtulan of the town of Mustafakemalpasa said about 15 miners were trapped after the blast caused a shaft to collapse at the mine. Around five workers were pulled out and hospitalized, he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pope hails growing freedom in Cuba

While welcoming Havana's new ambassador to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said Thursday that there are growing signs of religious freedom in Cuba, and that there is an opportunity for reconciliation between the communist nation and the United States. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. men sought to join jihadist groups

Five young American Muslims arrested in Pakistan met with representatives of a group linked to al-Qaida and asked for training, but were turned down because they didn't have "references" from trusted militants, a Pakistani security official said Thursday.

Another senior officer said the five men sought to fight jihad, or holy war, in northwestern Pakistan and to battle American troops in Afghanistan.

The case is another worrisome sign that Americans may be susceptible to terrorist recruitment from within the U.S. It comes after charges against a Chicago man accused of plotting international terrorism.

U.S. officials in Pakistan have now visited the men in custody. Their disappearance from the area of Washington, D.C., late last month (one of them left a militaristic farewell video, saying Muslims must be defended) prompted a frantic search by friends and family, and an investigation by worried counterterrorism officials.

Javed Islam, a regional police chief in Pakistan, said the men met with a banned organization, Jaish-e-Mohammed in Hyderabad, and with representatives of a related group, Jamat-ud-Dawa, in Lahore. Those groups turned down their requests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online links

- The five Americans who have been arrested in Pakistan reportedly first tried to contact jihadist groups through Facebook and YouTube.

Santa in Beirut **Sleigh tripper**

BILAL HUSSEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People gathered at the international airport in Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday to greet Santa Claus upon his arrival from Finland. He will visit schools, medical centres and a Christmas village.

Ousted Honduran president and coup leaders at stalemate

POWER PLAY Honduras's coup-installed government says ousted leader Manuel Zelaya is free to leave the country, but there's a catch: He can't leave as president, and he says he won't go as anything else.

And so Zelaya remained holed up Thursday in the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa, the capital. If he sets foot outside the building, the leaders who ousted him have vowed to arrest him on charges of treason and abuse of power.

They appeared to be softening their stance on Wednesday, when they first responded positively to a Mexican request seeking guarantees of Zelaya's safe exit from the country.

Mexico sent a plane for Zelaya, but the government quickly said he could leave only as a private citizen requesting asylum. He would be forced to concede his claim to the presidency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coup

- President Manuel Zelaya was ousted by an army-led coup in June and fled the country.
- Zelaya returned to Honduras in September and has been living in the Brazilian Embassy.
- A new president, Porfirio Lobo, was elected by Hondurans last month in a contentious vote.

News in brief

MEDIA The Nielsen Co. is selling some of its biggest trade journals, including The Hollywood Reporter and Billboard. It also said it will shut down Editor & Publisher, which has chronicled the newspaper business for 108 years.

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Comment

The burning question of bilingualism

UrbanCompass

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

Waterloo fire Chief John deHooge, who takes over the Ottawa Fire Service in January, got a foretaste of local politics this week as city council went behind closed doors to argue about language.

DeHooge, a 30-year veteran who beat 317 other candidates from across the country for the job, doesn't speak French.

It's normal to exclude the public from discussions involving personnel matters, and probably just as well in this case, as the reportedly heated argument was likely not one of council's finer moments.

But we're not in Waterloo anymore, chief. As the capital of a bilingual nation, Ottawa has special responsibilities and, appropriately, policies to ensure employees can serve the public in either language. There's a point, however, where principle should take a back seat to practicality.

At the federal level, there's been some soul-searching about civil servants taking courses that simply prepare them to pass tests and get their certification rather than actually acquire any working knowledge of another language. Once the test is over, the new language skills often disappear because they aren't used anyway.

Official Languages commissioner Graham Fraser recently questioned the wisdom of sinking such massive amounts of time and money into sending middle-aged managers on perpetual French courses.

DeHooge, for his part, has promised to take French lessons. The catch is, that's all he has to do. There's no deadline, and no requirement that he actually learn French, or even get better at it. It's lip service to a policy that, applied without common sense, can result in ludicrous decisions.

For example, take the case of Jeanne Barr, the postmistress in Pakenham, notified by Canada Post she was out of a job because she doesn't speak French. Of course, neither does Pakenham, but try telling that to Canada Post and the Official Languages Act.

City councillors Georges Bedard and Jacques Legendre, who were only doing their jobs in questioning the hiring of a unilingual fire chief, want the city's language policy tightened so that in the future anyone in such a senior position would have to be bilingual.

Of the six contenders actually interviewed for the job, two were bilingual, but neither had experience running a large urban fire department. I can't help but worry that if the city's policy had been to Bedard's and Legendre's liking, the job would have gone to one of these less-qualified candidates, with language trumping actual experience and ability on the job.

If our Toronto-born chief can learn to parlez-vous a little, great, but I hope he'll concentrate on firefighting.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa; ottawaletters@metronews.ca.

Views

Not such a rosy picture for aboriginals

Bernd Christmas

Poverty is a fact of life facing many Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

The UN recently ranked Canada fourth on its quality of life ranking and paints a rosy picture. Officially called the Human Development Index, it measures certain criteria to get a snapshot of a country's quality of life.

Let's look at this from the perspective of the aboriginal community in Canada. Statistics show the aboriginal infant mortality rate is 1½ times higher than the Canadian infant mortality rate. An aboriginal man will die 7.4 years earlier than a non-aboriginal Canadian. An aboriginal woman will die 5.2 years earlier than her non-aboriginal counterpart.

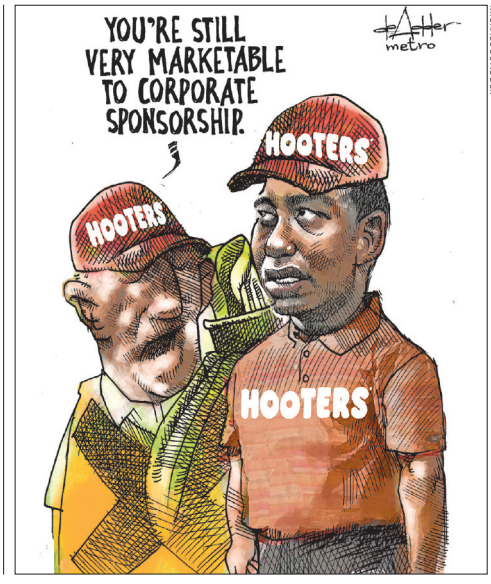
Unbelievably, 70 per cent of aboriginal students on-reserve will never complete high school. Graduation rates for the on-reserve population range from 28.9 to 32.1 per cent annually. About 27 per cent of the aboriginal population between 15 and 44 years of age hold a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared with 46 per cent of the Canadian population within the same age group.

On economic terms, unemployment rates for all aboriginal groups continue to be at least double the rate of the non-aboriginal population. Aboriginal persons living in a family setting are about three times more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than is the case for other Canadians. About 80 per cent have incomes below $30,000 per year.

Statistics on the health of Aboriginal Peoples is grim. The suicide rate is more than twice the Canadian rate and is now among the leading causes of death among aboriginal youth between the ages of 10 and 24, with the rate estimated to be five to six times higher than that of non-aboriginal youth. Diabetes is at least three times the national average.

It's wonderful that Canada is held in such high regard by others, but once you start to peel back the layers, an uglier picture emerges … Aboriginal Peoples' poverty.

Bernd Christmas is a Mi'kmaq lawyer practising aboriginal and corporate law. www. berndchristmaslawgroup.com



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Toyota plans to hire 800 people

In another sign that conditions in the Canadian auto industry are improving, Toyota Canada plans to hire 800 more people at its plant in the southern Ontario town of Woodstock. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

BAILOUT Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told a skeptical watchdog panel Thursday that the Obama administration's decision to keep the government's unpopular bank bailout program going until October was a necessary "limited, qualified extension." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stability threatened: Bank

Review finds conditions improved, but debt poses risk

Mounting governmental and household debt are posing new risks to the stability of financial systems, the Bank of Canada said Thursday in its most recent analysis.

The central bank's semi-annual "Financial System Review" finds that overall conditions have improved in the short term since it last reported in June.

But it adds that record-high debt by Canadian households pose an elevated medium-term risk if a second financial or economic shock were to materialize.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has warned in the past about Canadians getting in over their heads with large mortgage commitments that don't appear problematic given today's low interest rates.

The bank repeats the warning in its systems review, stressing that rates aren't going to remain at historic lows forever and mortgage payments will rise.

This is both a potential problem for households and banks, the report states.

"When borrowing funds, especially in the form of mortgages, households need to assess their ability to service these debt obligations over their entire maturity, taking into account likely changes in both income and interest rates," the report stresses.

And the bank says lenders should be careful about extending mortgage loans even if they are insured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Review

- The Bank of Canada notes that its review of potential risks is not intended as a prediction of what is likely to occur, but an early warning system of potential risks.

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Lululemon optimistic for holiday season

REVENUE Lululemon Athletica Inc. is at peace with its optimistic outlook for the holiday shopping season, following a 30 per cent revenue spike this fall as cash-strapped consumers continued to scoop up its pricey yoga wear.

The Vancouver-based maker of the uber trendy activewear reported Wednesday a profit of $14.1 million or 20 cents a diluted share in the quarter ended Nov. 1 — up from year-earlier net income of $8.8 million, or 13 cents per diluted share.

Revenue increased 29.7 per cent to $112.9 million from $87 million in the same 2008 quarter, while comparable-store sales increased by 10 per cent.

"(We) are very pleased to deliver these results in a challenging retail environment," said CEO Christine Day on a conference call to investors Wednesday.

"Sales momentum continued to build in the third quarter as consumers responded to our distinctive."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NHL keen on Quebec City?
Quebec Premier Jean Charest says that after speaking with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman he is confident the NHL is keen on bringing a team back to Quebec City. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sens blank Flyers

NHL

Senators 2 Flyers 0

AT

Brian Elliott made 23 saves in his second NHL shutout and Nick Foligno and Jesse Winchester scored to give the Ottawa Senators a 2-0 victory over the slumping Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday night.

With 9:30 minutes left to play, Foligno took a wrist shot from just above the circle and then put his rebound past diving goalie Brian Boucher, who had smothered another drive by Foligno a few minutes earlier.

Winchester sealed the victory with a short-handed, empty-net goal in the final minute.

It was the first shutout this season for the Senators, who have two wins in their past six games.

The Flyers were blanked for the third time in six games. They are 1-3 under new coach Peter Laviolette, who replaced the fired John Stevens a week ago after Philadelphia's two consecutive shutout losses.

Philadelphia, which lost six of seven before the coaching change, has scored only 11 goals in seven games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Jonathan Cheechoo of the Ottawa Senators skates with the puck against the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday in Philadelphia.

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Sports in brief

CURLING Three teams have tied for third place heading into the playoffs at the Canadian Olympic curling trials. Amber Holland, Stefanie Lawton and Krista McCarville will all take to the ice Friday to determine who gets the final playoff spot after finishing the round robin with identical 4-3 records.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Cincinnati's Brian Kelly has won the Home Depot Coach of the Year award on the same day he told his team he was leaving for Notre Dame. The 47-year-old Kelly went 34-6 in three seasons at Cincinnati.

HOCKEY Detroit Red Wings coach Mike Babcock says Dan Cleary will be out for about a month because of a separated shoulder. Cleary was injured Wednesday night in Detroit's loss to the St. Louis Blues.

BASEBALL Looking to fill two big holes and add much-needed power to their lineup, the New York Mets have made contract offers to a pair of free agents: Canadian left-fielder Jason Bay and catcher Bengie Molina. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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20 sports

Pirates sign Crosby
Bobby Crosby and the Pittsburgh Pirates agreed to a $1-million US, one-year contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in a flag-bearer?

Field of Play

Scott Russell

metronews.ca/fieldofplay

And so the speculation begins. Who will carry the Maple Leaf into the stadium when the Olympics open in Vancouver? This question preoccupies the musings of many Canadians every time the Games roll around because the subject of who will carry our flag prompts vastly different responses, all of which are laced with tremendous passion. The stakes are even higher because these are our home Olympics.

Some feel that the right and privilege of carrying the flag is an opportunity not to be denied — not even if the task interferes with preparation for imminent competition. Stellar athletes who declined for such reasons in 2006 at Torino were, at times, publicly ridiculed and found themselves having to defend their choices.

There are many characteristics necessary in a flag-bearer. Not only does the athlete have to be of substance on the field of play, he or she has to represent the goodness of Canada. In addition, this country aims to reflect its diversity in the person who bears the standard. Therefore, linguistic, racial and gender equality issues are considered.

Strangely, in a country in love with hockey, our greatest male players who will garner much of the nation's attention are deemed by many to be ineligible because they are professionals — sort of like invited guests at the Games.

It's too bad because the charitable Jarome Iginla, a veteran of three Olympics who scored twice in the gold-medal game in Salt Lake City, might be a great choice. So would Martin Brodeur, the most prolific goalie of all time who will take part in his fourth Olympics.

> **"This country aims to reflect its diversity in the person who bears the standard."**

No, it seems Canada's flag-bearer must be an Olympian first and foremost. The job has to go to someone who has lived the Olympic life.

Without naming names, there are so many fine Canadians to assume this position. By now we should all know who they are because when the time comes they will be representing all of us.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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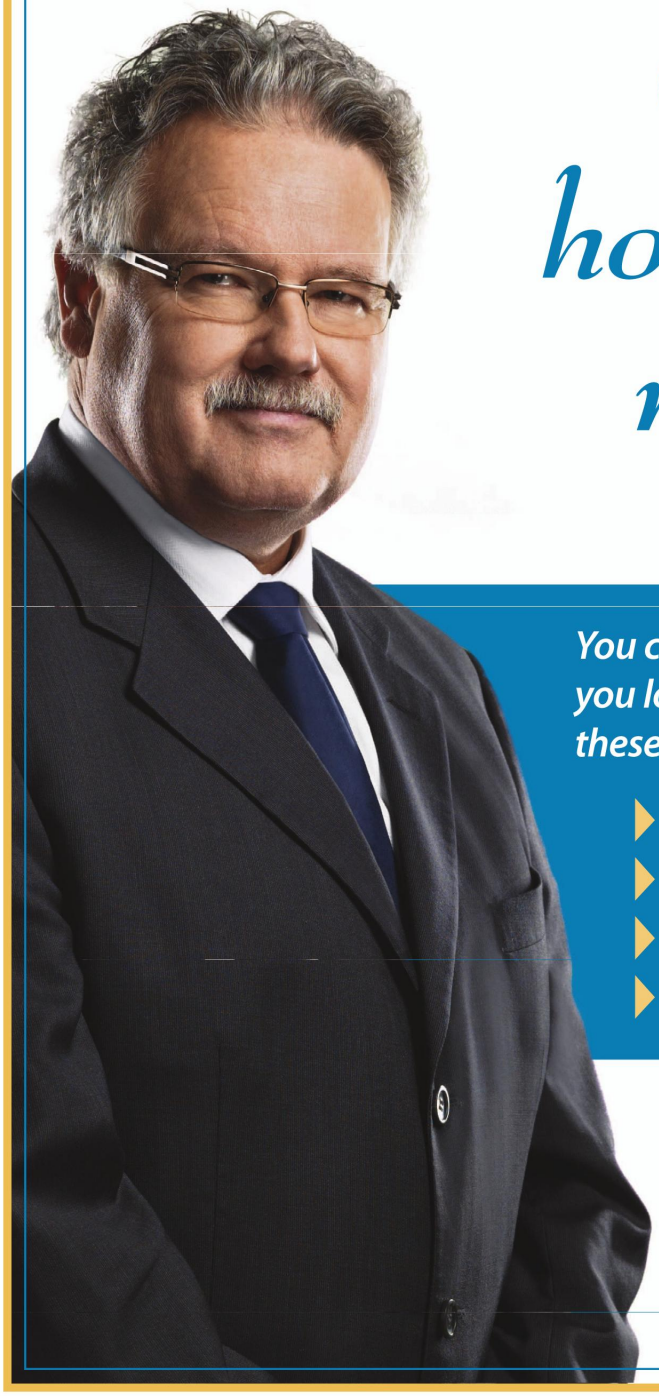

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Canada

Annual event lights up the hill
An annual event lights up Parliament Hill Saturday. The 25th annual Christmas Lights Across Canada illumination ceremony will see over 300,000 lights turned on at 70 sites across the National Capital region. METRO OTTAWA

METRO CHOICE AWARDS

Metro Ottawa Readers voted and here are your favourite picks. Thank you for participating and the Metro Choice Awards will be back again next year!

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Dairy Queen

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Wild Wing
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Broadway Bar & Grill

CATERER
Thyme and Again
Creative Kosher Catering
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PUB
Clock Tower Brew Pub
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O'Grady's Outpost

CHIP WAGON
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Fritomania
Blooming Onion

SUSHI
Kinki Restaurant
Sushi Kan
Sushi Go

AFRICAN
Horn of Africa
East African Restaurant
Mugena

Dave Levesque makes his weekly pilgrimage from Orleans to DiRienzo's for his much enjoyed sandwich fix.

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La Bottega Nicastro
Memories Restaurant

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Chips and Dairy
New York Fries

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Gabriel's Pizza
Colonnade Pizza
Pizza Pizza

DESSERT
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The Foolish Chicken

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Clock Tower Brew Pub
Pub Italia

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Caribbean Flavours
Savana Café
Caribbean Sizzler

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Cathay Restaurant

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Second Cup

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BUFFET
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Rideau Carleton Raceway
Buffet Yang Ming

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Shanghai

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Trevor Walker

MUSIC FESTIVAL
Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest
Ottawa Folk Festival
Ottawa Fringe Festival

Winter activities come to Gatineau Park
With the first big snowfall hitting the region earlier this week, now's the time to start checking out winter activities at Gatineau Park. The park features winter hiking, snowshoe and cross-country ski trails. METRO OTTAWA

THE RESULTS ARE IN...

METRO CHOICE AWARDS 2009

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Titanic hopes

Pg 26

It's been a long time, but James Cameron — of Aliens, Terminator and Titanic fame — is back with his latest movie, Avatar.

Movies

Pg 30

Freeman and Damon shine in Eastwood's Invictus.

Music

Pg 38

Jared Leto dishes on 30 Seconds to Mars' latest album.

Television

Pg 36

Friday Night Lights among the top shows of the decade.

At a glance
Invictus ⊕⊕⊕⊕, The Princess and The Frog ⊕⊕⊕⊕½, Me and Orson Welles ⊕⊕⊕

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Cameron crunch time

Will Avatar's huge budget and hype sink it?

Movie **feature**

A colossal budget, visionary technology and a down-to-the-wire workload on a film whose fortunes are a real question mark.

James Cameron has been here before on little ditties called Terminator 2: Judgment Day and Titanic. In case anyone's forgotten how that worked out for him, Titanic stacked up 11 Academy Awards, best picture and director among them, and a record $1.8 billion worldwide at the box office.

This time, the Ontario-born filmmaker's vision is riding on Avatar, a science-fiction epic aiming to push the bounds of digital filmmaking and 3-D presentation into the heavens, with a reported price tag well in excess of the $200 million spent to make Titanic.

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Will audiences come along? Cameron thinks so.

"It's hard for me to imagine that short of some massive marketing debacle, that it's not going to work for people. I mean, we may not have a kind of slam-dunk opening weekend that settles the whole case. I don't think the case is going to be settled until week two or maybe week three," Cameron said only days after completing Avatar, just in time for its worldwide blowout next week.

"Let's face it. It wasn't settled on Titanic till week 10. Titanic was the No. 1 picture for 16 weeks. I don't expect that kind of performance out of Avatar."

Cameron will not divulge what he does expect out of Avatar, wisecracking that if we announce the sequel, then we hit the number.

Cameron's reputation and a mammoth marketing push by distributor 20th Century Fox virtually guarantee hit status for Avatar.

Avatar hits theatres next week

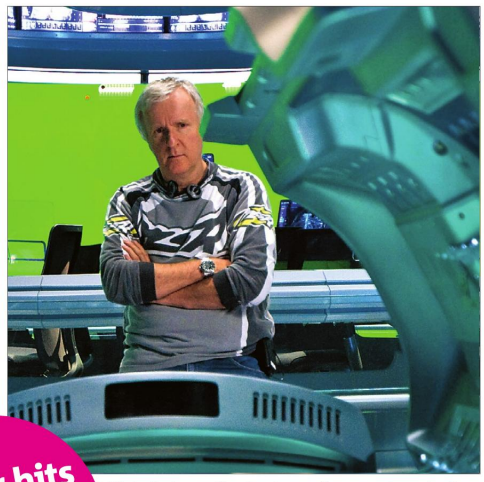
Still, in this blockbuster age, there are hits and there are HITS.

The question is whether Avatar can climb to the $300 million or $400 million level of such franchises as Star Wars, The Lord of the Rings and Spider-Man.

Some factors in its favour:

- Science-fiction and fantasy have gone mainstream in a huge way since Cameron's last foray in the field.
- Cameron's a franchise unto himself even when he doesn't score a runaway hit (The Abyss).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ontario-born director James Cameron has plenty riding on his new sci-fi epic Avatar.

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Wife meets ninja

It's not the most obvious of face-offs but Wife Vs. Ninja is set for the screen with DreamWorks. This is the story of a Long Island housewife whose scientist husband leaves her for a young intern, who is in fact a ninja assassin. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Movies in brief

CONTENDER A breakout film by rising Quebec director Xavier Dolan is among the international contenders seeking a Golden Globe nomination for best foreign language film. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association says I Killed My Mother is one of a record 69 foreign language films that have qualified for consideration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frog timeless tale

The Princess and The Frog

Director: John Lasseter
Stars: Anika Noni Rose
Classification: G
Rating: ½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Disney returns to its roots with The Princess and The Frog.

It took nearly 15 years and several misfires for Disney to realize what made their animated movie musicals special, but luckily they did, as The Princess and The Frog proves. The ironic part was that it took CGI king John Lasseter to champion a return to the animation studio's roots.

In The Princess and the Frog, there's no winking irony, no out-of-place pop culture references and no rapping grannies.

What's there instead is a beautifully inventive take on a classic fairy tale full of music that pays homage to the film's New Orleans setting while still fitting in the classic Disney vein. The fact that Randy Newman wrote the songs but opted not to sing them himself probably helps a great deal.

The animation featured is a return to form for Disney, making the film feel timeless right out of the gate. The elephant in the room — that the film feature's Disney's first African-American princess — becomes a non-issue so quickly it's ridiculous.

A lot of that probably has to do with the fact that our heroine, Tiana, spends much of the movie as a frog herself, but every aspect of the story is handled so artfully that anyone attempting to ascribe political meaning to anything in it would only make themselves seem foolish.

• For a trailer of The Princess and The Frog, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca

Search for lama chronicled in doc

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

FEATURE "You could say it was love at first sight."

That's how filmmaker Nati Baratz describes his first meeting with Tibetan monk Tenzin Zopa, the subject of his new documentary Unmistaken Child — opening next week. The film chronicles Tenzin's quest to find the young reincarnation of his lifelong master Lama Konchog.

But this was not the film Baratz intended to make when he set out for Asia. Originally, he wanted to document a group of orthodox Jews search for a hidden Jewish-Tibetan tribe.

He met Tenzin while in Nepal, researching his movie and attending classes at a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. He was there to speak about his life and his master who had just died. Baratz says he realized, "this is the movie I want to make."

But it took months for both Tenzin and the Tibetan monks Baratz their permission to make the film. "It was a long process," says Baratz.

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Spielberg up for sound award

Steven Spielberg has landed the Motion Picture Sound Editors' (MPSE) 2010 Filmmaker Award. The E.T. director will be honoured at next year's MPSE's Golden Reel awards ceremony held on Feb. 20. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Invictus stars on top of their game

Invictus

Director: Clint Eastwood
Stars: Matt Damon, Morgan Freeman
Classification: PG
Rating:

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The main joy of Invictus is watching Morgan Freeman finally, at long last, play Nelson Mandela, a role it was assumed would eventually end up on his resume.

But instead of a long-planned adaptation of Mandela's autobiography, director Clint Eastwood has brought to the screen the story of 1995 Rugby World Cup, held in South Africa, and Mandela's effort to use the event to unite an apartheid-scarred nation.

That Freeman excels as Mandela is really no surprise, but it is fun to watch. The real surprise here is Matt Damon, as rugby captain Francois Pienaar, who turns in a startlingly effective performance.

Good as the leads are, the rugby itself unfortunately gets in the way. As the sport is more than likely a bit unfamiliar to North American audiences, much effort is made to explain the basics of the game.

Some of these are seamless within the story, such as actual coaching sessions the team held in the townships as an outreach effort. Others, such as one security guard asking another straight-forward questions about scoring and gameplay, feel far too clumsy — especially in a film that handles so many other complex story aspects so artfully.

The big final match against New Zealand, the film's climax, is played out almost in real time, point by point, leaving Mandela a spectator in his own story as Pienaar's men take the field and wordlessly fight for their nation's honour.

Aside from taking up way too much of the film's time, the game also suffers from too much slow motion, which is what ultimately keeps the film from being a true success. Whether the audience knows the outcome of the famous game or not, the filmmakers take so long getting to the final whistle that it's hard to care when they do.

• For a trailer of Invictus, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star in Invictus, directed by Clint Eastwood.

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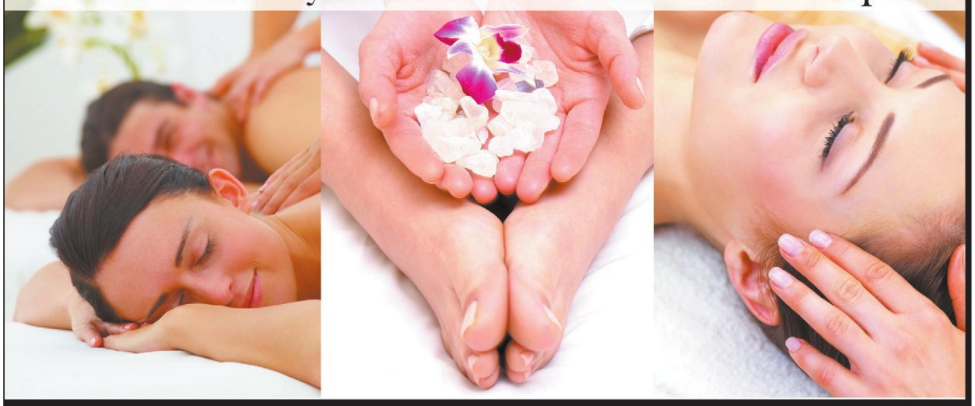
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Eclipse in IMAX

Like your vampires big, really big? The Twilight Saga: Eclipse is ready to get the IMAX treatment when it comes out next June, Summit Entertainment has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Zac Efron and Claire Danes star in Me and Orson Welles.

MacKay towering

Me and Orson Welles

Director: Richard Linklater
Stars: Zac Efron, Christian MacKay, Claire Danes
Classification: STC
Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Sometimes one performance can save an entire film. Take Me And Orson Welles, a fairly bland coming age story set against the backdrop of Orson Welles' infamous 1937 production of Julius Caesar.

The movie is featherweight and predictable, but bursts to life every time Christian McKay appears on screen as Orson Welles.

McKay's performance transcends impersonation to completely capture the complex personality of a young Welles at the peak of his powers and director Richard Linklater (Waking Life) is clever enough to shade in all of Welles' flaws just as carefully as his prestigious talents. It's easily the best representation of Welles ever captured on screen, but unfortunately the film that surrounds the towering performance doesn't quite compare.

The main problem with the movie is that it centres on Teen Beat coverboy Zac Efron rather than Welles.

The High School: The Musical star plays an ambitious teen who stumbles into a small role in Caesar. Much of the film is about Efron learning hard life lessons from Welles, the cast, and a promiscuous production assistant played by Claire Danes.

Efron's limited range as an actor is stretched to the breaking point in a pretty undemanding role. The script does capture the youthful joy of being involved with the arts reasonably well, but without Orson Welles this would have been a made-for-TV movie at best.

Fortunately Richard Linklater rushes through the plot to spend as much time as possible with McKay's Welles, vividly recreating his expressionistic take on Julius Caesar and filling every scene with subtle details about Welles' early life (such as his use of off-duty ambulances to race around New York).

It's unfortunate that the director didn't just make a film about this era of Welles' life with Christian McKay as the star, because it could have been an interesting bio-pic.

As it stands, Me And Orson Welles is merely a pleasant movie featuring one astounding performance destined for awards recognition.

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Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Victoria by Vallee

C.R.A.Z.Y. director tackles Brit royalty

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

When he was attending this year's Toronto International Film Festival with his film, The Young Victoria — an intimate account of the iconic British monarch's early years on the throne — Jean Marc Vallee's hair was considerably shorter than it was when he was in Toronto for his Genie-winning C.R.A.Z.Y.

This tonsorial disparity speaks to the differences between the two films: Where C.R.A.Z.Y.'s amped-up autobiographical narrative gave the Montreal-based filmmaker licence to let it all hang out, The Young Victoria's subject matter called for a more pared-down approach.

"Normally, period pieces are not my cup of tea," explains Vallee, who took several years to decide how to follow up the critical and commercial success of C.R.A.Z.Y.

"But Julian Fellowes' script was beautiful: He has such a rare way of writing about this world. I felt like I could spend the next two years of my life trying to get it onscreen."

Vallee admits that The Young Victoria, which hits theatres next week, is a less personal project than C.R.A.Z.Y., and that he struggled for a while with striking a balance between individual vision and the demands of the costume-drama genre.

The Young Victoria hits theatres next week

"On the credits, it doesn't say (that this is) 'a film by (Jean-Marc Vallee) … it says 'directed by.' What I mean is that I'm not the only one making creative decisions."

This is not to suggest, however, that The Young Victoria lacks any continuity with C.R.A.Z.Y.: While their protagonists are several centuries apart, both films deal with adolescent frustration.

"The story takes place a long time ago, and from research, we have some idea of how these people behaved," says Vallee. "But there's nothing about how people were behind closed doors. So in the film, when our Victoria forgets her etiquette — when she stands or sits in a certain way, or addresses somebody in an inappropriate manner — it's not because we're trying to relate to a modern audience. It's because it really might have happened that way in private!"

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Diaz goes to school

Cameron Diaz has signed on the dotted line to star in Sony's new comedy Bad Teacher. Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupinsky, who write for the US version of The Office, are responsible for the script. EMPIRONLINE.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

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An Investigational Oral Contraceptive Pill Clinical Research Study

Many women who take the birth control pill have pelvic pain, cramping, or headaches during the hormone-free interval (the week off the pill when they either take sugar pills or no pill at all). They may also have breast tenderness, nausea, vomiting, heavy bleeding, bloating, or swelling.

A new birth control method has been developed in an investigational study and is currently being evaluated in a worldwide research study. This investigational drug may reduce the amount of pelvic pain or headaches women have during the hormone-free interval compared to other birth control pills.

You may qualify to take part in this study if:

- You are between 18 and 50 years old
- You are currently taking a monthly birth control pill
- You have pelvic pain/cramping or headaches during your week off the pill

For more information, please contact:
Lorraine Denis
Clinical Research Coordinator
The Ottawa Hospital – Riverside Campus
613-738-8400 ext 81732

This research project has been approved by the Ottawa Hospital Research Ethics Board.

Playing Mandela

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Morgan Freeman has played real life characters before on screen, most notably in Lean on Me, but with his latest role he takes on one of the most venerated people in the world, Nelson Mandela.

"This started out with Madiba (honorary title adopted by elders of Mandela's clan) naming me as his heir apparent," says Freeman. "When he was asked… 'Mr. Mandela, if your book becomes a movie, who would you like to play you?' He said, 'Morgan Freeman.'"

That was fourteen years ago. It took Freeman that amount of time to find and develop Invictus, this weekend's look at Mandela's plan to use a rugby team as a symbol of South African unity, into a film directed by Clint Eastwood. Freeman used that time to prepare, getting to know the real Mandela.

Freeman may be the latest to play Mandela on screen, but he isn't the first.

The first major dramatization at Mandela's life starred Danny Glover (who won an Emmy for his work) and was made in the 25th year of his 27 year prison sentence. Shot on location in Zimbabwe the made-for-TV Mandela covers the years 1948 to 1987 focusing on not just on Mandela's struggle for freedom but his personal life as well.

"I'm always interested in people who become symbols," said writer Ronald Harwood, "and I'm curious to know what such people are like as ordinary men and women, beneath the trappings we bestow upon them."

Next came Mandela and deKlerk another made-for-television drama starring Sidney Poitier and Michael Caine. The story of how these men engineered the end of apartheid was shot in South Africa on many of the actual locations where the real story took place. Newsreel footage furthers the film's feeling of historical authenticity.

There have been several other dramas based on Mandela's life, including Goodbye Bafana, starring 24's Dennis Haysbert, but to catch a glimpse of the man himself check out Malcolm X.

Just months after his release from prison Mandela played a schoolteacher in a Soweto classroom in the film's final scene, reciting a snippet of one of Malcolm X's most famous speeches.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Cineplex | Independent | Museum | Empire | AMC | Rainbow Cinemas

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 11 TO THURS., DEC. 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Bright Star (PG) Fri 4:30 Sat 2:15 Sun 4
Brothers (14A) Wed 8:55
An Education (PG) Mon 4:30 Tue 7 Wed-Thu 4:30
It Might Get Loud (PG) Fri 9:30 Sat 4:45-9:25 Sun 6:30 Mon-Tue 9:10
A Serious Man (14A) Wed 6:40 Thu 9:10
Tokyo Sonata (PG) Fri 7 Sat 6:55 Sun 1:30-8:40 Mon 6:40 Tue 4:30

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

The Deep (STC) Fri 3 Sat-Sun 11:30-1:30-3:30 Thu 6 Fri 4 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30 Thu 7
Sea Exhibition (STC) Sat-Sun 9:30-10-10:30-11

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

2012 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:40-8:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-8:10
Armored (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:40
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:50
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:05-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-7-9:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sat 6:30-9:10 Sun 6:55 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 12:15-2:30-4:50-7:05-9:20 Sat 4:50-7:05-9:20 Sun 12:15-2:30-4:50-7:05-9:20 Mon 4:50-9:35 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:05-9:20
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:55
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sat 1:50-4:30-7:50-10:20 Sun 1:50-4:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:50-10:20
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:5:20-7:45-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:45-10
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30 Mon-Thu 3:30
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40-10:05
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 1:-4:7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:7:20-10:15
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Brothers (14A) Fri 4:10-6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:45
An Education (PG) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:40 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 4:20-9:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Me and Orson Welles (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:20
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 4-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:50
The Road (14A) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:50

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Capitalism: A Love Story (PG) Fri 7 Sat 9:30 Sun 7
Elf (G) Sat 2:30
Heavenly Creatures (14A) Sat 4:30 Sun 5 Tue 9:15
Inglourious Basterds (14A) Fri 11:45 Sat 11:50 Wed-Thu 9
Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Sun 2:30
Sniff: The Dog Movie (STC) Wed 7
Surrogates (PG) Mon 9:15 Thu 7
Surviving Crooked Lake (STC) Fri 9:30 Sun 9
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Mon-Tue 7
White Christmas (PG) Sat 7

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218, familycinema.ca

Astro Boy (PG) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Amelia (PG) Fri-Wed 1:3:50-6:35 Thu 3:50-6:35 Thu 1
Astro Boy (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:20-4:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (STC) Fri-Thu 10:30-12:25-2:40-4:50
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Tue 2-4:20-6:45-9:15 Wed 2-4:20-6:45 Thu 2-4:20-6:45-9:15
The Fourth Kind (14A) Fri-Tue 10:40-9 Wed 10:40 Thu 10:40-9
G-Force (STC) Fri 10:10-12:05 Sun-Thu 10:10-12:05
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Tue 10:20-6:55-9:05 Wed 10:20-6:55 Thu 10:20-6:55-9:05
Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) Sat 11
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Tue 10-7-9:25 Wed 10-7 Thu 10-7-9:25
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:30-4:40

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

2012 (14A) SDDS Dig. Fri 3:45-7 SDDS Dig. Sat-Sun 12:35-3:45-7 SDDS Dig. Mon 3:45-7
The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo Dig. Fri 3:55-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Dig. Sat-Sun 12:55-3:55-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Dig. Mon-Thu 3:55-6:40-9:20
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dolby Stereo Dig. Fri 4:10-6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Dig. Sat-Sun 1:15-4:10-6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Dig. Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

2012 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:3:25-8
Armored (14A) Fri-Thu 11:1:45-4:20-7:30-10:05
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:55-9:55
Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 10:50-1:30-4:10-7:15-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:30-7-9:25
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:30-2:40-5-7:25-9:35
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:15-6:40-9:45
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 10:40-1:20-3:50-7:05-9:20
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-1:10-3:30-6:20-9
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 10:30-1:15-3:40-7:10-9:40
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:45-6:10-9:10

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

De Tanger a la Mecque (STC) Sat 4 Wed 8
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (G) Sat 8 Sun 7 Thu 8
Harry Potter et le Prince de sang-mêlé (G) Fri 8
Journey to Mecca in the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta (STC) Fri 7 Sat 3-7 Sun 3-6
Mysteres des Grands Lacs (STC) Fri-Sun 4 Tue 1 Wed 4-9 Thu 1
Mysteries of the Great Lakes (STC) Fri 12-2 Sat-Sun 12-5 Tue 12-3-9 Wed 12-2 Thu 12-3
Safari Sauvage 3D (STC) Fri 1 Sat 10 Sun 1 Tue 4-7 Wed 1 Thu 4
Wild Safari: A South African Adventure (STC) Fri 11-3-5 Sat-Sun 11-2 Tue 11-2-5 Wed 11-3-5-7 Thu 11-2-5

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 Mon 7 Tue 1-3:30-7-9:30 Wed-Thu 7-9:30
Noemie le Secret (STC) Fri-Sun 12:50-3-6:50-9 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3-6:50-9 Wed-Thu 6:50-9
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:10 Tue 1:10-3:10
Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (PG) Fri-Sun 7:10-9:10 Mon 7:10 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:20

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

5150, Rue des Ormes (13+) Fri-Sun 5:8:20 Mon-Thu 12-5
Astro v.f. (STC) Fri-Sun 12:1:40-3:20-5-6:40 Mon-Thu 12:3:50-5:30-7:10
Coco avant Chanel (G) Fri-Sun 4:35-9:45 Mon-Thu 12:1:55-6:05
Les Dames en bleu (STC) Fri-Sun 6:30-8-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:55-3:30-7-8:35
Décadence 6 (16+) Mon-Thu 5:10-9
Il pleut des hamburgers (G) Fri-Thu 1:50-3:25-7-8:35
L'ère de glace: L'aube des dinosaures (G) Fri-Sun 12:1:40
L'éveil d'un champion (G) Fri-Sun 3:15-5:25-7:35 Mon-Thu 1:35-3:50-8:05
Max et les maximonstres (G) Fri-Sun 12
Opération G-Force (G) Fri-Sun 12:1:35-3:05 Mon-Thu 12

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Les 2 font la père (G) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:15-9:30 Mon 7:15-9:30 Tue 1:10-3:40-7:15-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:30
2012 (G) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1-4:25-8 Mon 8 Tue 1-4:25-8 Wed-Thu 8
Disney's: Un conte de Noël 3D (G) Fri 7:05-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:05-9:20 Mon 7:05-9:20 Tue 1-3:30-7:05-9:20 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:20
Frères (13+) Fri 6:20-8:45 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-6:20-8:45 Mon 6:20-8:45 Tue 12:15-2:45-6:20-8:45 Wed-Thu 6:20-8:45
Noémie (STC) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:15-6:40-9:10 Mon 6:40-9:10 Tue 12:50-3:15-6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10
Planète 51 (G) Fri 6:50-9 Sat-Sun 12:40-3-6:50-9 Mon 6:50-9 Tue 12:40-3-6:50-9 Wed 6:50-9 Thu 9
Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (STC) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-7:20-9:35 Mon 7:20-9:35 Tue 1:20-3:50-7:20-9:35 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:35
La princesse et la grenouille (G) No Passes Fri 7-9:05 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:2:20-4:30-7-9:05 No Passes Mon 7-9:05 No Passes Tue 12:2:20-4:30-7-9:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:05
La Saga Twilight: Tentation (G) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:30-9:15 Mon 6:30-9:15 Tue 12:30-3:20-6:30-9:15 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:15

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

2012 (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:25-7:45
2012 v.f. (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:40-8
Armored (13+) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:25-4:30-6:35-8:40
Brothers (13+) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-2:50-5:05-7:20-9:35
Invictus (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-3-6:40-10
Ninja Assassin (16+) Fri-Thu 7:35-9:55
Noemie le Secret (STC) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:30-9:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:10-5:15-7:40-10:15
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:05-5:20
Planète 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:10-4:20
Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (STC) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:35-6:55-9:10
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:40-5-7:15-9:30
La princesse et la grenouille (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40
La Saga Twilight: Tentation (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:45-7:10-9:45-10:05
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:15-3:45-6:30-7-9:15-10:10

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
Brothers (14A) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6-8:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
Old Dogs (G) Fri 7:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:10
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:50-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:40-8
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 7-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-4-7-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat-Sun 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 6:40-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:20

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

2012 (14A) Fri-Thu 11:40-3-6:10-9:20
Armored (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:45-9:15
Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 1:4:05-7:10-10:10
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:25-9:10
Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:45-6:50-9:45
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15-7:25-9:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Fri-Tue 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:10-7:15-9:40 Sun 1:25-4:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:15-9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Tue 7:20-9:35 Wed 9:35 Thu 7:20-9:35
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 12:10-4-6:55-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:35-4-6:55-10:15 No Passes Sun 12:10-4-6:55-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:10-4-6:55-10:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-6:30-9
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:30-4:50-7:40-10:05
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-5:40-8:10
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 11:50-2:20-5 No Passes Sat 11:50-2:20-5 No Passes Wed 11:50-2:20 No Passes Thu 11:50-2:20-5 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:50-2:20-5-7:30-10
The Road (14A) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:25-6:15-8:50 Sun 12:35-3:25-6:15 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:15-8:50
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

ORLEANS

ORLEANS TOWN CENTRE 6 CINEMAS
250 Centrum Blvd., 613-834-0666

2012 (14A) Fri 8:45 Sat-Sun 1:40-5:8:45 Mon-Thu 6:15
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-6:30-9:30
Old Dogs (G) Fri 6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-6:45-9:40
Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (PG) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:10-7-9:35
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:3:45-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30

KANATA

KANATA 24
801 Earl Grey Dr., 613-599-1200

2012 (14A) Dig. Fri-Sun 10:35-12:40-2:05-4:15-5:35-7:45-9:05 Dig. Mon-Thu 2:05-4:15-5:35-7:45-9:05
Armored (14A) Dig., Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:40-12:55-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:15 Dig. Mon-Thu 3:15-5:30-7:45-10:15
Avatar (STC) Dig., Special Engagement, Sneak Preview Thu 12:01
Avatar 3D (STC) Dig., Special Engagement, Sneak Preview Thu 12:01
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri-Wed 2:05-7:35 Thu 2:05
The Blind Side (PG) Dig. Fri-Sat 11:1:05-1:50-4:10-4:40-7:05-7:35-10:10-30 Dig. Sun 11:1:05-1:50-4:10-4:40-7:05-8:05-10 Dig. Mon-Thu 4:10-7:05-10 Dig. Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:05-10 Dig. Mon-Thu 2:05-4:10-4:55-7:05-8:05-10
Brothers (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:50-1:40-4:20-7-9:45 Mon-Wed 4:20-7-9:45 Thu 4:20
Couples Retreat (PG) Dig. Fri-Sun 11:20-4:55-10:20 SDDS Dig. Mon-Wed 4:55-10:20 Dig. Thu 4:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Dig., Dig. Fri-Sun 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:20-9:40 Dig., Dig. Mon-Wed 2:15-4:45-7:20-9:40 Dig., Dig. Thu 2:15-4:45-7:20
Everybody's Fine (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:15-8-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:50-5:15-8-10:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Dig. Fri 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:50-10:05 Dig. Sat 12:45-3:05-5:25-7:50-10:05 Dig. Sun 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:50-10:05 Dig. Mon-Thu 3:05-5:25-7:50-10:05
Good Hair (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:55-2:40-5-7:25-9:45 Mon-Wed 2:40-5-7:25-9:45 Thu 2:40
Invictus (PG) Dig., Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:45-1:3-4-6:15-7:15-9:15-10:15 Dig., Special Engagement Mon-Thu 3-4-6:15-7:15-9:15-10:15 Dig., Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:45-3-6:15-9:15 Dig., Special Engagement Mon-Thu 3-6:15-9:15
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Dig., Fri-Sun 11:25-2-4:35-7:15-9:50 Dig. Mon-Thu 2-4:35-7:15-9:50
Ninja Assassin (18A) Dig. Fri-Sun 11:50-2:35-5:10-7:40-10:10 Dig., Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:40-10:10
Old Dogs (G) Dig. Fri-Sun 10:35-11:50-12:50-2:20-3:05-4:50-5:20-7:10-7:55-9:20-10:05 Dig. Mon-Wed 2:20-3:05-4:50-5:20-7:10-7:55-9:20-10:05 Dig. Thu 2:20-3:05-4:50-7:10-9:20
Planet 51 (PG) Dig. Fri-Sun 11:15-1:35-4:05-6:30-9:05 Dig. Mon-Thu 4:05-6:30-9:05
The Princess and the Frog (G) Dig., Special Engagement Fri-Sat 10:45-11:30-1:30-2:15-4:15-5:7-7:30-9:30-10 Dig., Special Engagement Sun 10:45-1:30-2:15-4:15-5:7-7:30-9:30-10 SDDS Dig., Special Engagement Mon-Wed 2:15-4:15-5:7-7:30-9:30-10 Dig., Special Engagement Thu 2:15-4:15-5:7-7:30-9:30
The Road (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:35-2:10-4:50-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:50-7:30-10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-11:30-1-1:30-2:30-4-4:45-5:45-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:30-4-4:45-5:45-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10

m.metronews.ca

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Glee-ing up for a new choral conductor

Following in the footsteps of Kristin Chenoweth and Jonathan Groff, Tony winner Idina Menzel is in advanced talks to join the cast of Glee. If the deal goes through, she'll be playing the choir director for New Directions' rivals, Vocal Adrenaline. EW.COM

Television

Entertainment in brief

NEWSCASTER MUSICAL CHAIRS ABC says Chris Cuomo is leaving Good Morning America to co-host the news magazine 20/20. The move paves the way for George Stephanopoulos who may be joining the show. Today is Cuomo's last day on the breakfast television show.

CAT(WOMAN) BURGLAR Prosecutors say they have charged a man suspected of stealing $25,000 in jewelry from Julie Newmar. The actress who portrayed the first Catwoman on the Batman TV series spotted the pilfered jewelry for sale on eBay and alerted authorities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY

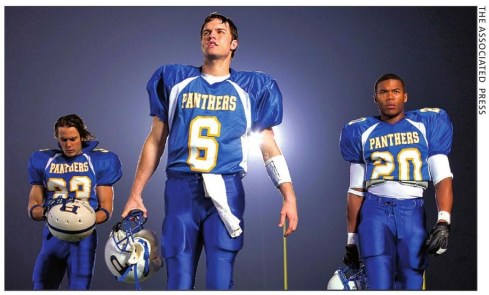
OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/11/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Paradise Found:	Islamic Art	Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat		Allan Gregg	Film 101 (N)	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Dollhouse Topher discovers the dangers of science.				NUMB3RS "Cover Me"		News Final
	209	342	6	CHRO	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Law & Order "Fed" (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Muppets Christmas: Letters		Medium (HDTV)		Spectacle (N)		News
	208	303	8	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen.				CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Law & Order "Fed" (N)		Dateline NBC (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	362	13	CBS	The Insider	Judge Brown	Yes, Virginia	Big Bang Th	Medium (HDTV)		NUMB3RS "Cover Me"		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Supernanny (N)		Ugly Betty "Be-Shure"		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	218	345	18	CHCH	Santa With Muscles ★ (1996, Comedy) Hulk Hogan.				Ferris Bueller's Day Off ★★★ (1986, Comedy), Alan Ruck				News at 11
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	Supernanny (N)		Ugly Betty "Be-Shure"		20/20 (HDTV)		News
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Dollhouse Topher discovers the dangers of science.				FOX 2 News (N)		News
news	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	Darts World Premier League.				Poker		Sportsnet Connected		Prime Time
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey	Interruption	Curling 2009 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings -- Women's Semifinals. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre
family	554	544	48	TEL	Batman: Brave	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars Clo.	Futurama	King of Hill	Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow		
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Wizards of Waverly Place The Movie			(9:03) A Mom for Christmas (1990)			(10:35) Hero at Large	
	551	542	65	YTV	Home Alone ★★★ (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin.				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird	Got No Head	Adrenaline
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	628	584	32	SPKE	DEA (HDTV)		DEA (HDTV)		DEA "Flip The Stripper"		DEA "Drug Dealing Deli"		DEA (HDTV)
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny vs.	Kenny vs.	Law & Order: UK		Cra$h & Burn
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Canada's Worst Driver		Man vs. Wild		Biblical Mysteries Explained		Daily Planet
	581	566	53	MTV	Impact	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Cribs	Teen Mom		1 girl 5 gays
	522	506	55	HIS	Battles BC		A Dream for Kabul (N)			Liberator	Cities of the Underworld		Go Deep
	603	561	95	FN	Ricardo	Eat, Shrink	HEAT	HEAT	Throwdown With Bobby Flay		Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Ramsay

SATURDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/12/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Crucible of Life (N)		My Beautiful Laundrette ★★★ (1985)			Interviews (N)	Eagle vs. Shark ★★ (2007, Comedy)		
	211	331	3	GTV	renegade	Jane Show	Melrose Place (N)		Lethal Obsession (2007, Suspense)		Kellie Martin.		News Final (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	The Road to Avonlea		The Magician's House: Secret Cavern (1999, Fantasy)				Christmas Together		Bravo!FACT
	196	311	7	CTV	Laughology (N) (DVS)		It's a Wonderful Life ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart. (DVS)						News
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey: Wild at Canucks		
	-	360	9	NBC	Paid Program	Wheel-Fortune	Oakpointe Church		Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Law & Order: SVU		News
	-	362	13	CBS	Paid Program	The Insider	Rudolph, the Reindeer		The Flight Before Christmas		(10:01) 48 Hours (N)		CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Most Amazing	Trendy Zone	Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Chun Yi		Most Amazing
	214	344	15	CITY	My RONA Home (DVS)		Glenn Martin	Out There	Clean ★★ (2004, Drama) Maggie Cheung. (DVS)				News
	218	345	18	CHCH	Jack Frost ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.				Flashdance ★★ (1983, Drama) Jennifer Beals.				News at 11
	-	361	20	ABC	Entertainment Tonight		The Polar Express ★★★ (2004, Fantasy), Nona Gaye				Castle "Fool Me Once"		News
	-	365	36	FOX	Seinfeld	Holiday Gift	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		FOX2 News at 10:00pm (N)		Wanda Sykes
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Camp. Brown
sports	406	417	27	net	English Premier League Soccer				Best Damn Top 100 Special		Poker		Sportsnet
	126	730	28	RDI	Journal	Grande soif	Découverte (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Grands reportages		La Facture	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NFL Presents	Curling	Curling 2009 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings -- Women's Final. (HDTV) (Live)						
family	554	544	48	TEL	A Dennis the Menace Christmas (2007, Comedy)				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	557	540	51	FAM	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Ebbie ★★ (1995, Fantasy)			Johnny Tsunami (1999)	
	551	542	65	YTV	To Grandmother's House		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Got No Head	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	628	584	32	SPKE	UFC Unleashed (N)		Spike TV's Video Game Awards 2009 (HDTV) (N)				Spike TV's Video Game Awards 2009		
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard		Alice (2009, Adventure) Caterina Scorsone.				Resident Evil: Extinction (2007, Horror)		
	520	505	42	DIS	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed	Canada's Worst Driver		Time Warp		Criss Angel
	581	566	53	MTV	Impact	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season
	522	506	55	HIS	Ultimate Engineering		Cities of the Underworld		Zodiac ★★★ (2007, Crime Drama) Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo.				
	603	561	95	FN	Glutton	Chef Abroad	Dear Food Network (N)		Chopped		Top Chef: Las Vegas		The F Word

SUNDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/13/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Centre of the Earth		A Boy Called Alex		Touch of Frost "In the Public Interest"			Empire of the Word	
	211	331	3	GTV	Prod. Parker	Prod. Parker	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	Family Guy	American Dad	News
	209	342	6	CHRO	TMZ (N)		The Christmas Blessing (2005, Drama)				Spectacle: Elvis		In Fashion
	196	311	7	CTV	Transformers ★★★ (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson, Josh Duhamel.						Christmas- White House		News
	208	303	8	CBC	Rudolph, the Reindeer		The Polar Express ★★★ (2004, Fantasy), Nona Gaye				CBC News: The National (N)		fifth estate
	-	360	9	NBC	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Cold Case "Iced" (N)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	216	395	14	OMN2	Without a Trace		Without a Trace		Salt Lake	Most Amazing	Aaram	Arirang Korea	Of Blessings
	214	344	15	CITY	Survivorman (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family" (N)				Conviction Kitchen (HDTV)		News
	218	345	18	CHCH	Serendipity ★★ (2001, Romance-Comedy) John Cusack.				Scrooged ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray, Karen Allen.				News at 11
	-	361	20	ABC	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family" (N)				Christmas- White House		News
	-	365	36	FOX	Brothers	Brothers	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	FOX2 News at 10:00pm (N)		Sportsworks
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of Union
sports	406	417	27	net	NFL Football	Sportsnet Connected		UEFA Champ.	Best Damn Top 100 Special		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet
	126	730	28	RDI	Journal	Tout	Alimentation		Le Téléjournal	Les Coulisses du pouvoir		Regard	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
family	554	544	48	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	6TEEN (DVS)		Futurama	King of Hill	Bromwell High	Rick & Steve	John Callahan
	557	540	51	FAM	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Grumpy Old Men ★★ (1993, Comedy)			(10:44) Snow Dogs	
	551	542	65	YTV	Charlie Brown	Flintstones	He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		ALF	ALF	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		Jacksons
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime
	616	521	39	SHO	Cra$h & Burn		Alice (2009, Adventure) Caterina Scorsone.				Found.	Foundatn	Kenny vs.
	520	505	42	DIS	Canada's Worst Driver		Canada's Worst Driver		Canada's Worst Driver		MythBusters (N)		A. Bourdain
	581	566	53	MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays
	522	506	55	HIS	Ancient Discoveries		Dogfights		Flyboys ★★ (2006, Historical Drama) James Franco, Jean Reno.				
	603	561	95	FN	Challenge		Get on Plate	Food	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taylor Kitsch, Scott Porter and Gaius Charles helped make Friday Night Lights about much more than Texas high school football.

Top ten TV shows

Here is The Canadian Press' list of the top 10 small-screen offerings from the past decade.

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT (2003-2006) It may be the most successful unsuccessful TV show of the decade; an irreverent, wacky sitcom that thrilled its faithful audience while bewildering countless others with its non-sequitur sense of humour.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (1997-2003) Before Twilight took a stab at dissecting teen angst with romantic fantasy, this nuanced dramedy sunk its teeth into adolescent pain with a disarming realism that belied its lighthearted, supernatural premise.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (STARTED 2006) Perhaps nowhere did America seem more real in the past decade than in Dillon, Texas, where residents confronted the Iraq war, racism and unemployment as they cheered on their beloved Panthers.

GILMORE GIRLS (2000-2007) No, the breakneck babble shared between every character is not realistic. But Lorelai Gilmore (Lauren Graham) and her daughter, Rory (Alexis Bledel), are such meticulously drawn characters that they feel like old friends.

LOST (STARTED IN 2004) With compelling characters, spellbinding storylines and mythical symbolism about a bunch of plane-crash survivors on a mysterious tropical island, Lost has brilliantly bridged the gap between the genres of sci-fi and big-network drama.

THE OFFICE (U.K.) (2001-2003) Not only hilarious and unnervingly clever, this British breakout reinvented the sitcom on both sides of the pond with its awkward humour and sly, deadpan delivery.

THE SOPRANOS (1999-2007) When creator David Chase introduced mob boss Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) to the world, he instantly lifted the traditional popculture Mafioso image from one-dimensional caricature to a nuanced enigma

30 ROCK (STARTED IN 2006) With the impossibly clever one-liners and self-referential storylines on 30 Rock, Tina Fey's Liz Lemon has became the decade's Mary Tyler Moore, wowing us with her clever jabs at NBC and pithy pokes at product placement.

VERONICA MARS (2004-2007) The short-lived series was something of a high-school noir, from its masterfully plotted first-season murder whodunit to the way that even its sunny California environs were always shaded in foreboding tones.

THE WIRE (2002-2008) Critics have suggested it's not only the best show of the decade, but TV's best show of all time. The crime drama examined the crooks and cops in crime-plagued Baltimore, giving equal face time to both sides.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MARK THE MOMENT

Easy as ABC, 123...4?
Michael Jackson's brothers are planning a world tour as the Jackson 4. The remaining members of the group — Marlon, Tito, Jackie and Jermaine — announced their plans Wednesday for a reunion next year. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Television

Seal's selects for compilation show his range

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

Seal is doing his best to battle jet-lag. He's just arrived in California from Australia, winding down a packed press tour to promote his new compilation, Hits, before joining wife Heidi Klum and their four children for the holidays. But he's not complaining.

"I'm not tired," he insists. "Tired is for the weak. I'll just stand for a bit, or else it will all go downhill quite fast."

A retrospective is an odd choice for the British singer, as he's not a big fan of looking back.

"I don't look back at my career and take a trip down memory lane," he says.

"The funny thing is I never listen to any of my own music at home. Heidi has a habit of playing them. When I finished System and the Soul album, she just played them to death. And what I would always do is I'd leave the room."

> **"I don't look back at my career and take a trip down memory lane."**
> Seal

The one hit in particular gives him the most pause is Kiss From a Rose, the single that catapulted him to fame.

"I can't stand singing it or the most part," he admits.

"It was the one I was most embarrassed by when I wrote it. I just thought it meandered all over the place.

"But then I've come to appreciate it — I haven't really written anything quite like it. And therefore I think it's the one I'm most proud of."

While he's not a fan of looking back on his career — compilation albums not withstanding — Seal is very candid about how his life with Klum has turned out.

"Do we have issues? Of course we have issues. But in the grand scheme of things we don't, not compared to some of the issues

"I see other families have and other couples have. We don't have a leg to stand on when it comes to complaining," he says.

"I've paid my dues. Both Heidi and myself worked our asses off to get here. No one gave it to us."

And Seal isn't shy about speculating as to what's made him so successful — or sharing his opinions on his fellow countrymen.

"My purpose for doing this was to emphasize the dynamic aspect of my career," he says of the compilation, which covers everything in his diverse career, from Crazy to last year's exploration into soul classics.

"Take a band like Coldplay. They've just made the same record four times," he said,

"It's same record, with a little bit of piano intro, then he comes in with a sort of ardent, sailing vocal that you're not quite sure what it means.

"It's a formula that works. And they've just repeated it four times. And I've never really been remotely interested in doing that."

METRO WORLD NEWS

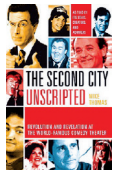
Seal's smooth soaring vocals on his hit ballad Kiss from a Rose catapulted him to stardom in 1994

Second City marks half a century

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

As many of its illustrious alumni as it can manage will descend on Chicago this weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Second City — the troupe that spawned a classic sketch comedy TV series and launched the careers of countless comedians, from Gilda Radner and Bill Murray to Tina Fey and Steve Carell.

Two of its most famous member, Catharine O'Hara and Eugene Levy, are particularly looking forward to the reunion — and to sharing the stage again.



IN BOOK STORES: The Second City Unscripted has interviews with its stars and creators.

"I'm much more comfortable with him now than I ever was in the old days," O'Hara admits, as she and Levy have gone on to be mainstays in Christopher Guest's improvisation-inspired films, including Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show and A Mighty Wind, in which they played star-crossed folk singers Mitch Cohen and Mickey Crabbe.

The reunion special also doubles as a benefit for Second City's alumni fund. "They set it up for alumni of Second City who are going through any sort of troubles in their lives and need some financial help," O'Hara explains.

The prospect of reviving favourite characters from the past has its downside, Levy admits.

"We're going to try and bring some of the wigs out of the mothballs," Levy says.

"It's kind of sad in a way, but fun in another — sad to see us now, trying to do the same thing."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Catharine O'Hara and Eugene Levy with the old school City crew

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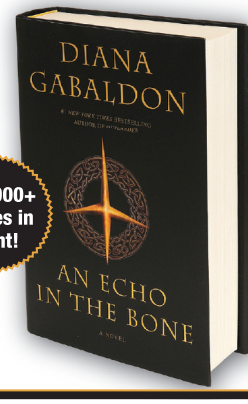

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DECEMBER SHOWS

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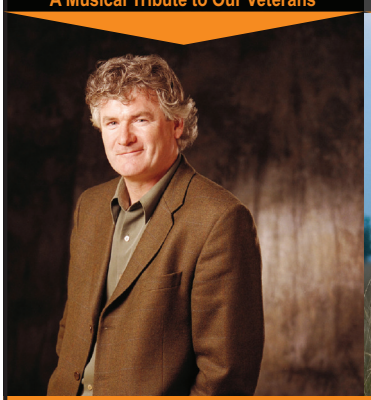
Dec 11
Rankin Sisters

Dec 15
Angelo Tsarouchas

Dec 16
Arrogant Worms
Christmas Turkey

Dec 18
Nathaniel Dett Chorale

Dec 19 + 20
John McDermott
with Russell de Carle (Prairie Oyster)
A Musical Tribute to Our Veterans



Dec 21
John Berry

CENTREPOINTE SHENKMAN | Ottawa THEATRES

Music

This is War is the latest album from 30 Seconds to Mars, which features actor Jared Leto, left.

Leto goes to war

Actor has new album with 30 Second to Mars

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Jared Leto might be a famous actor and platinum-selling musician, but even he has major record label headaches to deal with. In August last year, EMI sued Leto's band, 30 Seconds to Mars, for breach of contract.

Yet, the band re-signed with EMI before releasing their latest disc, This is War. "We want to be treated fairly," Leto tells Metro over the phone from Los Angeles. "We did get to a place where EMI addressed the concerns we were fighting for."

Still, it may seem a bit odd that the group would sign to any big label after all the trouble the majors gave the group. The band does have a massive following, so why not go the Radiohead route? It was something they considered.

"We looked at what other bands did," he says. "But Radiohead is now being distributed through a major. I started looking at the options and the reality is we're in a transition time right now. Being DIY still leaves the band having to do what it really doesn't want to, which is running a record company."

> **"If we're going to make a CD ... we might as well have fun and celebrate the release."**
> Jared Leto

Leaving all the grunt work to EMI allowed the group to try something completely different on their new record. Dubbed The Summit, the group went to several places around the world — including Toronto and Iran — to record fans playing instruments and singing to their new songs; some of these recordings ended up on the release.

"People did everything from percussion to singing to chanting and stomping," Leto explains. "We wanted to turn the audience away from the band and toward our fans around the world."

Working this into their songs wasn't easy. Leto had to plan for these recordings, even though he didn't know how they would turn out, while he was writing the album. "I had to leave space for the Summit in a way you'd map out strings for a record."

The result is a louder, more epic 30 Seconds to Mars. Partly because of the Summit and also thanks to Leto's love of big stadium sounds, This is War is a cross between distorted, grungy rock and arena-ready U2. It's brash and energetic, while Leto's wails pierce through the blistering drums and Edge-like guitar.

There's no doubt the band's fans will enjoy the effort, but just in case they need extra incentive to buy their disc, the group solicited its followers to submit photos for the CDs cover art. The group took the best and printed 2,000 covers.

"We did it to drive the record company crazy," says Leto, laughing. "We all know that most of us, me included, don't buy these very often anymore. If we're going to make a CD and go through the trouble of printing out a piece of plastic and putting songs on it, we might as well have fun and celebrate the release."

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Music

John K. Samson stripped away

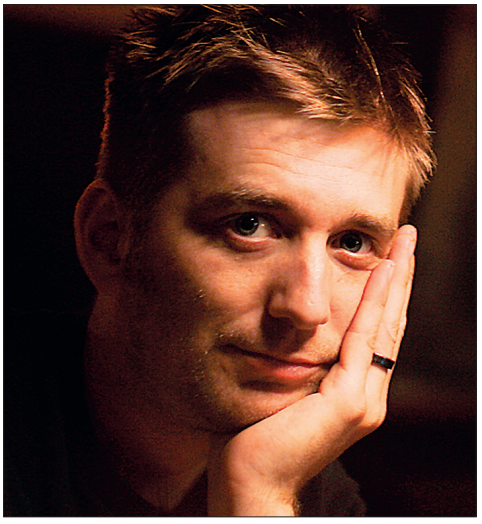
The Weakerthans frontman goes solo

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

We know what you're thinking: "John K. Samson ... why does that name ring a bell?"

It shouldn't be a surprise that Samson's name evokes familiarity. He's been around. Punk rockers recall his stint as bassist for Prairie-based political outfit Propagandhi while those who lean towards more radio-friendly music have seen/heard Samson's enticingly soft voice at the helm of indie rockers The Weakerthans for the last 12 years.

Yet when he hits the stage on tour, all of that will be stripped away. Samson is currently performing solo in support of his latest endeavour, an EP entitled City Route 85.



John Samson's new solo EP City Route 85, is inspired by the streets of his native Winnipeg.

While it's not unheard of for lead singers to venture forth with their own music, Samson's foray features a unique twist. The three-song release is his first in a collection of four efforts dedicated to and inspired by his native Winnipeg's streets. Yep, Samson's writing about life on the road but in a very different way.

"Most people wouldn't know it — including most 'Peggers — but City Route 85 is actually our main street commonly referred to as Portage Avenue," he notes.

He continues on to discuss how such a revelation led to the notion of dedicating a series of EPs to municipal and provincial thoroughfares.

"I'm looking at stretches or segments of highway and how the place affects the people, location, landscape and history," he reveals, noting a discovery of how arterial access and geography play a key role in a city's evolution. "It's interesting for people to think about these places in different ways. It sounds like a high school assignment but I wanted to do something really stripped-down; a little research project on three or four locations in Manitoba."

> **"I like the idea of a focused theme — exploring contemporary small-town life."**
> John K. Samson

Samson's idea is a strange path of its own. Still, the yield in songs such as Grace General, Cruise Night and the title track make it worthwhile. A collection of light and breezy albeit compelling observations related in Samson's inherently delicate, descriptive manner — songs feel more like stories related over a musical backdrop than typical, basic rhyming couplets squished between guitar riffs — City Route 85 is a grandiose experience compacted into less than 10 minutes.

"I like the idea of a focused theme — exploring contemporary small-town life," he beams before admitting the concept still has a lot more, er, road to travel. "So far, it's only a project I work on when I have the time. I have the next one sketched out. It's about a main street North of Winnipeg. It'll have a name and number but the locals know it as Main Street. One set will be north of Winnipeg, one south and … I don't know about the other one yet."

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Amazon.ca's best albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. Glee Soundtrack, Vol. 1; 3.My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 4. Glee Soundtrack, Vol. 2; 5. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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10 discs that matter

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
metronews.ca/soundcheck

This is the time of year — and the time of decade (more on that next week) — to make lists. I like lists. They make life so much more orderly. Here's my top ten albums of 2009 in order of release date.

To Lose My Life, White Lies (Released Jan. 12): How can a bunch of guys barely into their twenties already sound so world-weary? Smooth, accomplished and very mature. I knew this was going to be on my best-of list the first time I heard it.

Ruins of Berlin, Dex Romweber Duo (Feb. 10): Some of the scariest psychobilly I've ever heard. Check out Dex's sister wailing on The Wind Did Move.

Grizzly Bear's Vickatimest is one of Alan's top albums of the year.

Primary Colours, The Horrors (May 5): Primary colours? The only colour that matters here is black — and that'll have to do until something darker comes along. If you're hoping for a shoegazer revival, it might have started here.

Vickatimest, Grizzly Bear, (May 26): The hipster bloggers got this one right. Hugely ambitious and challenging yet understandable and accessible. Can't wait for the next album.

Lungs, Florence + The Machine (July 7): Florence Welch looks like she stepped out of a Renaissance painting (and with good reason — she comes from a long line of art historians). Brilliant, bewitching, beguiling and wonderfully quirky. Kate Bush/Tori Amos fans take note.

Horehound, Dead Weather (July 14): I can just hear the voicemail from Jack White's wife: "Honey? Can you take a break and maybe come home so you can learn the names of your children?"

Backspacer, Pearl Jam (Sept. 22): Eddie and the guys get back to basics with a short, concise and optimistic album that rocks better than anything they've released in years.

Black Gives Way to Blue, Alice in Chains (Sept. 29): Against the odds, they pull it off with a new singer. Dark, muscular and complex, it's a reminder of AIC's original potential. There may yet be a second act for these guys.

Landing, Githead (Nov. 10): Surely the greatest album of 2009 that no one's heard. Featuring Colin Newman of Wire, the album harkens back to the post-punk art-rock of the late 70s.

Them Crooked Vultures, Them Crooked Vultures (Nov. 17): A supergroup that actually lives up to its promise. Imagine that.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

CD WAREHOUSE.CA

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If you still remember why you fell in love with music in the first place, if you recall discovering songs on albums that you never knew existed, if you wondered if popular bands still cared about making great records then take a trip through ***The Things We Left Behind.***
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Michael Bublé - *Crazy Love* - $13.99
Crazy Love is the first all-love-themed recording in Michael Bublé's catalogue. Artistically and vocally, he is at the absolute pinnacle of his career. Includes the hit single "***Haven't Met You Yet***".

Various Artists - *New Moon* - $13.99
The ***Twilight*** saga has become a worldwide phenomenon and ***New Moon*** is finally here! Includes music from Death Cab for Cutie, The Killers, Muse and more!

Enya - *The Very Best Of* - $13.99
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Hugh Dillon - *Works Well With Others* - $13.99
Star of TV's ***Flashpoint*** and ***Durham County***, Hugh Dillon returns to his musical roots on ***Works Well With Others.***

Tegan and Sara - *Sainthood* - $13.99
Sainthood addresses themes of devotion, delusion, and exemplary behaviour in the pursuit of love and relationships. Contains the first single ***"Hell"***.

Seal - *Hits* - $13.99
Contains all of his major hits, plus two new recordings, led by the soulful single ***"I Am Your Man"***.

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Busey expecting first child
Gary Busey and girlfriend Steffanie Sampson are expecting their first child, TVGuide.com has confirmed. "Mr. Busey is thrilled and excited about the upcoming birth of his new son," his publicist Vicki Roberts, said TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Inglourious Basterds

DVD Never mind the critics, the subtitles and Brad Pitt. Quentin Tarantino's gloriously irreverent Second World War epic ups the ante on everything you love about movies — action, drama, suspense, humour, plain *badassery*, it's all here. And, for the record, it's not Pitt's film. It belongs to one German dude called Christophe Waltz.

2 Invictus

FILM When it comes to consistency in Hollywood, Clint Eastwood is as reliable as it gets. In his latest offering, about a game of rugby that united a post-apartheid South Africa, the director seems to have a winner once again. Matt Damon stars but all the buzz is around Morgan Freeman, who plays Nelson Mandela. Mr. Oscar's taking notes.

3 Charlotte Gainsbourg

CELEBRITY Belle de jour? You betcha! French pop icon Serge Gainsbourg's daughter made waves earlier this year for her shocking role in Antichrist — a role that was turned down by bigger names and one that eventually got her the best actress award at Cannes. Now, she's released a hypnotic new album called IRM (MRI in French) in collaboration with Beck. And she doesn't even consider herself an artist.

4 Dexter Season 4 Finale

TV Kudos to John Lithgow (and the writers) for adding some fresh dramatic blood to this crime series. After a tepid third season, everyone's favourite serial killer (Michael C. Hall as Dexter) met a match in Lithgow's devious Arthur Mitchell. And, if the last few episodes are any indication, the finale will be one big nail biter. Season 4's episode 12 airs Sunday on The Movie Network. Check local listings for times.

5 Touch Pets: Dogs

APP Want a virtual woof? There's an app for that. Get your fingertips wagging with a cuddly canine of your choice with this social game. The app uses uses an energy system. As long as your puppy has been fed and has energy, you collect puppy bucks for participating in training exercises, "career" advancement, play time, and social engagements with other dogs. The "cash" is used to buy new toys and gear for your dog.

6 Spectacle

SERIES The second-season opener of Elvis Costello's music show is quite the spectacle. The British-born, Vancouver resident has locked in Bono and The Edge for the episode, who perform several U2 hits. Spectacle airs today on CTV. Check local listings for times.

7 The Onion Presents Our Front Pages: 1988-2008

BOOK One of the world's funniest "newspapers" compiles its finest cover pages. Sample headlines: Canada signs non-aggression pact with the United States (1990); New Starbucks opens in rest room of existing Starbucks (1998). Enough said.

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Going Out

Mix of Six

Christmas Craft Show
When: Through Dec. 20
Where: Lansdowne Park

The event features 200 artists, artisans and designers selling their Canadian, handmade and unique wares. Tickets: $7 for adults.

Choir concert
When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Good Shepherd Parish, 3092 Innes Rd.

The Catholic Family Service of Ottawa is partnering with the community gospel choir Big Soul Project to present a concert.

CNIB day
When: Saturday
Where: The Canada Science and Technology Museum

Explore the exhibition Braille: Knowledge at your Fingertips.

Mayor's 9th annual Christmas
When: Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: Lansdowne Park

The celebration includes a visit from Santa, crafts, storytelling with Mrs. Claus, live music, entertainment and snacks.

Christmas FanFair Concert
When: Sunday, noon
Where: National Arts Centre

The ever-popular free Christmas FanFair Concert and Carol Sing-Along.

A Christmas Carol
When: Through Dec. 19
Where: The Gladstone Theatre

Features a great collection of local talent, including Kristina Watt.

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10:00am to 5:00pm
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THE TIME metro

Yeah, we don't get it either
Georgia May Jagger was named Model of the Year at the British Fashion Awards lon Wednesday night, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 17-year-old is the daughter of Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Is Jessica romancing a Pumpkin?

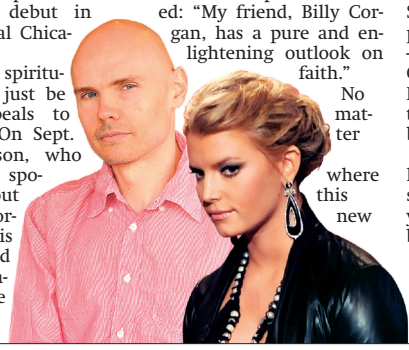
AT MIDNIGHT HE TURNS INTO A HAS-BEEN ROCK STAR Jessica Simpson and Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan have started dating — and are taking things slow, says a source close to the pop star, people.com reports. "They are getting to know each other," says the source. "He's a nice guy."

On Friday, Simpson, 29, and Corgan, 42, were spotted together in New York City. She was in town earlier in the week for sister Ashlee Simpson Wentz's Broadway debut in the musical Chicago.

Corgan's spirituality may just be what appeals to Simpson. On Sept. 11, Simpson, who has often spoken about how important God is to her and whose father, Joe Simpson, is a former pastor, Tweeted: "My friend, Billy Corgan, has a pure and enlightening outlook on faith." No matter where this new romance heads, a friend of Simpson's says she is happy that she is dating again — especially after Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo broke up with her the night before her 29th birthday this summer.

"She's a great girl," says her friend. "She's really sweet. She's had a tough year. She deserves the best."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Levi's Playgirl cover brings in lumpy sales

HANG OUT THERE, LEVI It seems that Levi Johnston's big old Playgirl.com reveal was a bit flaccid in sales department, popeater.com reports

"Nowhere near enough people paid the $19.95 to cover the reported $150,000 the fading brand paid the Alaskan hunk to go rogue," a magazine source tells the website. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

John Mayer muses about cheating, Kirstie Alley tries to lead Tiger out of the Woods, Nicole Richie has career advice for Big Bird, and Hugh Hefner continues to gross us out.

- @johncmayer If a man really wanted to get away with cheating on his woman, he'd store his other girls' name in his phone as "low battery."
- @kirstiealley I beg Mr. Woods to REFUSE to pay his extorters.Let em sell their idiot stories Just step up and give $ to people who really need it.FORGIVEN
- @nicolerichie How did Elmo end up the star of Sesame Street? When I was little it was all about Big Bird! Now hes a has-been. He needs a good scandal.
- @hughhefner Things are getting serious with Crystal and me. I love the girl.

METRO WORLD NEWS

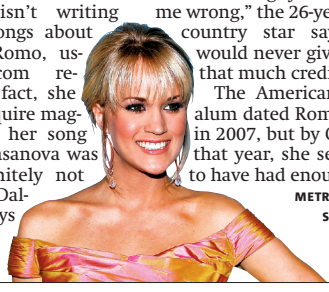
Underwood: Romo didn't inspire any of my songs

THERE GO ALL MY 'BEFORE HE CHEATS' THEORIES Carrie Underwood isn't writing any sad songs about ex Tony Romo, usmagazine.com reports. In fact, she assures Esquire magazine that her song Cowboy Casanova was most definitely not about the Dallas Cowboys quarterback.

"No, I would never immortalize a guy that did me wrong," the 26-year-old country star says. "I would never give him that much credit."

The American Idol alum dated Romo, 29, in 2007, but by Oct. of that year, she seemed to have had enough.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



NFL star claims Tila lied about assault

SHOTS AT TEQUILA San Diego Chargers superstar Shawne Merriman is suing his former girl friend Tila Tequila, claiming she lied about claims Merriman beat her up back in September in an attempt to ruin his career, TMZ.com

In the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, Merriman claims Tila posted all sorts of lies on her website, including stories that Merriman "choked and attacked" her, "sleeps with minors and forces them to take drugs," and that he manufactures drugs in his home.

Merriman also claims in the documents that Tequila admitted her lying scheme, at one time stating, "yes that is why I did a 'spin' now ... cuz now everyone is LOVINGGG me.'

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alexa Ray's folks lash out at media

GET WELL SOON, KIDDO In light of some media coverage of their daughter Alexa Ray Joel's recent hospital stay, her parents, Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley, have issued a statement to the media, people.com reports.

It reads: "Every parent can imagine the pain and anguish we face as parents of a daughter who is working to recover from the dangerous actions she took while suffering a devastating heartbreak.

"As much as we hate dignifying tabloid stories with a response, we feel we must set the record straight to protect our family. The story that ran in the New York Post on December 8th, and has been subsequently spread across the Internet, is filled with vicious lies and attempts to smear our character and that of our beloved daughter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Could Jake be planning a Yuletide proposal?

HE DOES HAVE A NEW MOVIE TO PROMOTE Reese Witherspoon has apparently been a very good girl, because Santa Claus (a.k.a. Jake Gyllenhaal) is supposedly going to pop the question to his gal pal over the holidays, Naughty But Nice is exclusively reporting.

Just days after a false rumor circulated that the cute couple had split, Gyllenhaal apparently decided the time was right to settle down, a source said.

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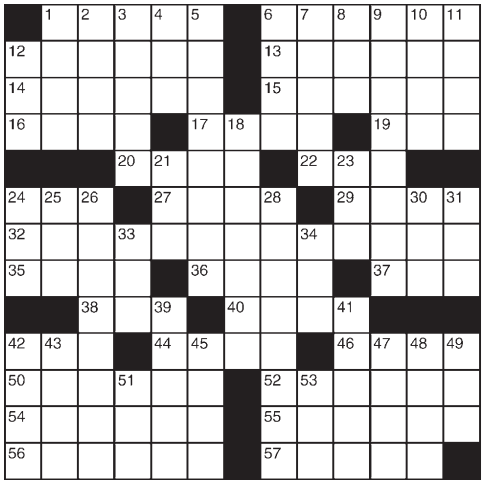
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Exact moment
6 Ducks
12 Sweatshirt type
13 Strip
14 Against difficulties
15 Starbucks size
16 Mexican money
17 Rams fans?
19 Dancer Charisse
20 Partner
22 Keatsian piece
24 — de deux
27 Siamese
29 On the rocks
32 Rare
35 Lowly laborer
36 Corner
37 Opposite of "post-"
38 Kvetch
40 Took to the skies
42 Copper head?
44 Oldies player
46 Status in a hierarchy
50 Press hard, as brakes
52 Fan, and then some
54 Majestic
55 Show hosts
56 "Allakazam!"
57 Fists, slangily

DOWN

1 Vatican VIP
2 Ahs' partners
3 Figure of speech
4 Goose egg
5 Fundraising show
6 Advantage
7 Lefthand page
8 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
9 Mortarboard's opposite?
10 Vortex
11 Start a garden
12 Cadence-call syllable
18 Gradually disappear
21 — standstill
23 Noise
24 Vim and vigor
25 Chopper
26 Old time?
28 Put on a pedestal
30 Screw up
31 Coloring agent
33 Geneticist's abbr.
34 Mamie's hubby
39 Common Halloween costume
41 Destruction
42 Now, initially
43 Vision problem
45 Grooving on
47 Sheltered
48 Yeses' undoers
49 Gold units (Abbr.)
51 Greek consonants
53 Flightless bird

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2	1						4	6
			8		4			
4		3				9		7
		4	3		9	1		
	6						2	
		8	6		2	5		
8		9				2		5
			7		5			
1	5						7	9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

T	S	P		F	L	O	W	
A	N	I		A	I	D	E	
C	O	L	D	F	E	E	T	
O	B	L	O	N	G		S	O
			P	I	E		U	N
E	T	H	E	R		D	I	E
W	H	E	Y		L	O	T	
E	R	A		G	E	M		M
R	U	L	I	N	G		S	O
			C	U	P		M	U
M	A	G	I		U	P	I	N
A	G	I	N		L	O	R	D
Y	E	G	G		L	E	K	S

C	H	O	P					
R	E	A	R					
O	N	T	O					
U	L	Y						
N	E	E						
S	T	O	W					
O	N	S						
C	A	T						
A	R	M	S					
A	B	A						
M	I	R						

1	8	7	2	6	4	9	5	3
4	3	9	7	8	5	6	1	2
5	2	6	9	3	1	8	4	7
9	1	3	6	2	8	4	7	5
7	6	5	1	4	9	3	2	8
8	4	2	3	5	7	1	9	6
6	9	8	4	7	2	5	3	1
2	5	4	8	1	3	7	6	9
3	7	1	5	9	6	2	8	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Creamy Liver with Leeks and Bacon

INGREDIENTS:

6 strips bacon, chopped
1 lb (500 g) calf's liver, thinly sliced
2/3 lb (300 g) baby leeks, sliced diagonally
2 tsp (10 ml) oil, if needed
1 1/3 cups (325 ml) beef stock
2 tbsp (25 ml) balsamic vinegar
4 tbsp (60 ml) heavy cream

METHOD:

1. Heat wide sauté pan and fry bacon over fairly high heat 4-5 minutes or until golden brown. Lift out with slotted spoon.
2. Add liver to pan and fry quickly about 2 minutes per side or until evenly coloured. Remove and keep hot with bacon.
3 Add leeks to pan, with oil if needed, and fry for 30 seconds, stirring. Stir in stock and heat until boiling. Simmer 2-3 minutes or until leeks are just tender.
4 Stir in balsamic vinegar and return liver and pancetta or bacon to pan. Stir in heavy cream. Bring to boil. Adjust seasoning to taste and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will get a huge burst of extra energy today as the Sun makes the best possible angle to your ruler Mars.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Family and financial matters will take up most of your time today but if you knuckle down you won't have to worry about them again for quite some time.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
If there is something you have done that you are less than proud about now is a good time to own up and get it off your conscience.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Good news is coming your way and it is the kind of news you will want to share, so spend time with friends and family and put work plans on hold.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Why is everyone so cautious and fearful? Whatever the reason there is no reason why you should let their negative attitude rub off on you.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't be afraid to take a few chances today and don't be suspicious if someone in a position of power offers you something you have long desired.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
This is the kind of day when you will want to get things done, but because others are not so ambitious you may have to go it alone.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will find it easy enough to convince people to support you today, even if they don't quite believe that you know what you are doing.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Some people seem to be under the impression that you will be there for them every hour and every minute of every day.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't give in too easily today, especially on the work front where colleagues and employers will happily take advantage if you don't stand up for yourself.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
There is no point dwelling on what might have been and the good news today is that you will be too busy having fun to worry about failures.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Today's cosmic alignment can help you break a habit that once held you up but is now holding you back.

This day in history

1941: World War II: Germany and Italy declare war on the United States, following the Americans' declaration of war on Japan in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States, in turn, declares war on Germany and Italy.
1962: The last execution ever in Canada occurs to Arthur Lucas for murder
1964: Che Guevara speaks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. An unknown terrorist fires a mortar shell at the building during the speech.
2008: Bernard Madoff is arrested and charged with securities fraud in a $50 billion Ponzi scheme.

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GL Sport model shown

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OR LEASE FROM **$178**** at **0%** Annual Lease Rate for 60 mos. WITH $0 DOWN PAYMENT Delivery and Destination Incl.

• Dual front airbags • Multi-adjustable driver's seat • AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat • Rear adjustable head restraints

Limited model shown

2009 ELANTRA L

LEASE FROM **$192**** at **3.75%** Annual Lease Rate for 60 mos. WITH $0 DOWN PAYMENT Delivery and Destination Incl.

OR

FROM **$11,995♦** with **0%** purchase financing for 36 mos.◊

• Dual front airbags • AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo • Power front windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat

THE NEW 2010 SANTA FE GL 2.4L

LEASE FROM **$337**** at **2.0%** Annual Lease Rate for 60 mos. WITH $0 DOWN PAYMENT Delivery and Destination Incl.

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

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- DELUXE D-HANDLE POLY BLADE SNOW SHOVEL 21" – $9.99 EACH – BRAND NEW! – SH1255
- OBUSFORME THE BODYCARE EXPERTS BY CONAIR – ULTRA FORME SUPPORT – SEAT $14.99 – BRAND NEW! – OB1819; BACKREST $24.99 – BRAND NEW! – OB2041

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